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HEALTH
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF OLDHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

1946



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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Oldham.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Morrell and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of Oldham and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1946.

The vital statistics can again be regarded as satisfactory. Measles was prevalent during the last months of the year and assumed epidemic proportions. Two deaths occurred and it is to be regretted that no simple permanent protection can be afforded to young infants against this debilitating and dangerous disease. Three deaths occurred from Diphtheria and again one has to record that these children had not been immunised. No cases of Smallpox occurred in Oldham or the adjacent districts. As predicted in the report for the previous year, troops returning from the Far East were a potential source of danger and were, in fact, responsible for a number of Small-pox cases which occurred in other parts of the country. The birth rate of 18.34 per 1,000 of the population compares with 17.05 for the previous year and should continue to rise. The death rate of 14.56 compares with 15.54 for the previous year. The maternal mortality rate of 2.29 compares with 1.43 for England and Wales and 3.07 for the previous year. The infant mortality rate fell to 43 per 1,000 live births and equals that for England and Wales. It is the lowest rate yet to be recorded and compares with a rate of 50 for the previous year. There were 58 deaths due to tuberculosis (all forms) and the death rate of .50 per 1,000 of the population is the lowest yet recorded, the previous lowest rate being 1942 when 61 deaths were registered with a death rate of .53

Early in the year, in conjunction with the Lancashire County Council the mass miniature radiography unit which was operated by the staff of the County Tuberculosis Service, was installed in Westlands. The survey which followed is fully described in the report and I am indebted to Dr. H. S. Bagshaw for the review and conclusions which follow. I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation that was afforded by the staff of the unit and the employers and employees.

In April the Hospital Survey Report of the North Western Areas was published. In this report a Hospital District comprising Oldham, Crompton, Royton, Chadderton, Lees and Limehurst is recommended. It is also recommended that the Saddleworth Urban District could be most conveniently served by the Oldham hospitals. This report which is a most extensive and detailed document will undoubtedly receive the most careful consideration of those who will be responsible for the new hospital service.

In November the National Health Service Act received the Royal Assent and so the first stage was begun in what may prove to be the greatest social and medical reform in the history of this country. The main principles of the Act are recognised and accepted by all and a wonderful opportunity is presented to those who will determine the foundations for the administration of the new service. In December the Minister by Order determined the areas for which Regional Hospital Boards should be constituted for the exercise of functions with respect to the administration of hospital and specialist services, and Oldham was included in the Manchester area.

At the end of the report I have endeavoured to place on record some of the services undertaken during the war years. In spite of the restrictions of war these years saw much progress. The work of the Department could not have been carried through so successfully without the happy relationship which has existed between the Committee and its officials and our Town Clerk (Mr. T. Alker). We must also express our appreciation of the help received from the Borough Engineer and Surveyor and the Borough Treasurer. Throughout these years we have had as Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P., and he must feel great pride in the work which he has seen achieved since he accepted office. Under his Chairmanship the responsibilities of the Department have increased and a high standard of efficiency has been maintained.

Owing to the war no Municipal Elections were held from November, 1938, until November, 1945, when several changes were made on the Health Committee. Councillor W. H. Taylor, who had served throughout the war years and previously; Councillor Clough, who had been a member from 1939, and Councillor Mrs. G. Shannon who rejoined the Committee in 1941, all ceased to be members of the Committee. I wish to record my appreciation of the willing co-operation afforded by these members over many years.

I wish to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee for their continued support and encouragement. My thanks are also due to all members of the staff for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. CHALMERS KEDDIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE 1946.

Chairman:

The Mayor: Alderman S. T. Marron, J.P.

Deputy Chairman:

Councillor G. A. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B.

Alderman A. Hallwood, J.P.	Councillor W. T. Glover.
Alderman H. Shepherd, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. G. Morrell.
Alderman A. Tweedale.	Councillor F. Powell.
Councillor E. Ayres.	Councillor A. Schofield.
Councillor J. Bannon, J.P.	Councillor A. L. Simpson.
Councillor J. W. Steadman.	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman—The Mayor, Alderman S. T. Marron, J.P.

*Deputy Chairman—*Councillor G. A. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B.

Alderman H. Shepherd, J.P.	Councillor W. T. Glover.
Alderman A. Tweedale.	Councillor Mrs. G. Morrell.
Councillor J. Bannon, J.P.	Councillor A. L. Simpson.
Councillor J. W. Steadman.	

with—

Mrs. F. J. Bainbridge, B.A., J.P.	Mrs. M. Jackson, J.P.
Mrs. A. Hoole.	Mrs. L. Peach.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

<i>Chairman—</i> Alderman H. Shepherd, J.P.	<i>Deputy Chairman—</i> Councillor G. A. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B.
The Mayor.	Councillor W. T. Glover.
Councillor J. Bannon, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. G. Morrell.
Councillor A. L. Simpson.	

WESTHULME HOSPITAL AND TUBERCULOSIS SUB-COMMITTEE.

<i>Chairman—</i> Councillor J. Bannon, J.P.	<i>Deputy Chairman—</i> Councillor W. T. Glover.
The Mayor.	Councillor F. Powell.
Councillor E. Ayres.	Councillor A. L. Simpson.
Councillor J. W. Steadman.	

GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE.

*Chairman:—*Alderman A. Tweedale.

*Deputy Chairman:—*Councillor G. A. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B.

The Mayor.	Alderman H. Shepherd, J.P.
Alderman A. Hallwood, J.P.	Councillor F. Powell.
Councillor A. Schofield.	

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1946.

Area in Statute Acres (1931 census)	4,735 acres
Enumerated Population (1931 census)	140,314
Registrar General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1946)	116,240
Density of Population, i.e., Number of persons per acre (whole Borough)	25
Number of Houses in the Borough, December, 1946	
(a) Permanent	40,640
(b) Temporary (Pre-fabricated)	153
Number of New Houses erected in 1946:—	
(a) Permanent— (i) by local authority ... 10	
(ii) by other bodies or persons 18	28
(b) Temporary (Pre-fabricated)	153
Rateable Value (March, 1946)	£703,273
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (March, 1946) ...	£2,755
Amount of Poor Law (Outdoor) Relief paid in 1946 ...	£37,129
Weekly average number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief (603 cases)	1,001
Approximate total number of insured persons, 31st December, 1946	72,992
Number of Marriages during 1946	1,171
Persons married per thousand of population .. .	10

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births. (Males 1,107, Females 1,025)	2,132
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...	18·34
Stillbirths. (Males 26, Females 28)	54
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 Births	24·70
Deaths. (Males 869, Females 824)	1,693
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...	14·56
Maternal Deaths	5
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ...	2·29
Deaths of Infants Under One Year	92
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	43·15
Other Death Rates per 1, 000 of estimated population:—	
All forms of Tuberculosis	0·50
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0·45
Other Respiratory Diseases	2·25
Cancer	2·06
Principal Zymotic Diseases: Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	0·08

Births. **VITAL STATISTICS.**

There were 3,420 live births (1,815 males and 1,605 females), registered in the Borough during the year. After correction for inward (52), and outward (1,340), transferable births, the net total of births is 2,132 (1,107 males and 1,025 females). The illegitimate live births numbered 140, or 6.57% of the total live births.

Stillbirths.

During the year 98 stillbirths were registered. After being adjusted by inward and outward transfers, the number is 54.

Deaths.

During the year 2,148 deaths (1,118 males, and 1,030 females), were registered in the Borough. After correction for inward (70), and outward

(525), transferable deaths, the net total deaths is 1,693 (869 males, and 824 females), a decrease of 37 on the total for 1945.

Of the 1,693 deaths, 766 or (45.25%) occurred in one or other of the following Institutions:—

Boundary Park General Hospital	...	...	243
Westwood Park Institution	...	...	330
Oldham Royal Infirmary	...	...	108
Westhulme Hospital	...	...	8
Strinesdale Sanatorium	...	...	20
Other Institutions			
(including outside Institutions)	...	...	57

Of the total deaths, 973 (or 57.47%) occurred in persons aged 65 years or over.

The following are the chief causes of death in order of frequency:—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	461
Cancer	...	...	...	...	240
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	203
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	167
Arterial Disease	...	...	...	...	74
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	58
Suicide and Other Violence	...	...	...	...	51
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	34

These groups of diseases represent 1,288 deaths occurring during the year, or 76.08% of the total deaths registered.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 149 deaths (87 males and 62 females) of infants under one year of age registered in the Borough. After correction for inward (2) and outward (59) transferable deaths, the net total of infant deaths is 92 (53 males and 39 females), a decrease of 4 on the total for 1945. Of the 92 infant deaths, 3 were those of illegitimate children, and 47 occurred in infants under 4 weeks old, equivalent to a neo-natal mortality of 22.05 per thousand births.

The following table shows the neo-natal mortality, compared with the infantile mortality during the last ten years:—

Year	Infant Deaths under one month	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	Infant Deaths under one year	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births
1937	60	35.61	115	69.00
1938	66	39.26	103	61.27
1939	47	30.08	95	60.86
1940	48	31.05	105	67.91
1941	38	23.04	107	64.88
1942	55	32.22	110	64.44
1943	42	22.76	114	61.79
1944	51	25.21	108	53.38
1945	47	24.75	96	50.55
1946	47	22.05	92	43.15

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate		Death Rate from Phthisis	Death Rate from other Tubercular Diseases	Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births).				
			Year 1946	Average Five Years 1941—1945			(140) Abortion with Sepsis	(141) Abortion without Sepsis	(147) Puerperal Infections	(142-6) (148-150) Other Causes	Total
England & Wales ...	19.1	11.5	43	50	*	*	0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06	1.43
126 Great Towns ...	22.2	12.7	46	59	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Birkenhead ...	23.5	13.7	67	76	0.86	0.08	—	—	0.6	0.9	1.5
Burnley ...	19.24	14.61	44.63	59.51	0.43	0.16	—	—	—	0.61	0.61
Bury ...	18.36	14.50	58	49	0.34	0.04	—	—	0.95	0.95	1.90
Halifax ...	18.6	14.4	31.01	50	0.37	0.06	—	—	—	1.1	1.1
Huddersfield ...	18.74	14.67	50	63	0.49	0.06	—	—	—	0.85	0.85
Liverpool ...	25.2	13.2	74	78	0.79	0.11	—	—	0.10	0.89	0.99
Manchester ...	20.89	13.52	63.71	63.85	0.69	0.10	0.28	—	0.07	1.25	1.60
Oldham ...	18.34	14.56	43	59	0.45	0.05	0.46	—	0.46	1.37	2.29
Preston ...	20.86	12.61	56	60.6	0.46	0.09	—	—	—	1.68	1.68
Rochdale ...	17.8	14.9	49	55	0.36	0.12	—	—	—	3.17	3.17
Salford ...	22.7	13.3	53	73	0.80	0.05	—	—	0.25	2.53	2.78
St. Helens ...	22.2	11.0	59.9	65.2	0.45	0.03	—	—	0.415	0.415	0.83
Stockport ...	19.49	13.12	51.43	68.88	0.39	0.04	0.36	—	0.72	—	1.08
Wallasey ...	21.37	12.55	42.2	55.0	0.57	0.09	—	—	—	0.44	0.44
Wigan ...	20.16	11.55	52	71	0.43	0.04	—	—	0.57	2.87	3.44

*Not available.

Table of Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life during the Year 1946

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
ALL CAUSES	M	869	53	5	5	7	11	21	40	71	173	299	184
	F	824	39	4	1	4	13	25	28	70	150	259	231
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Scarlet Fever	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Whooping Cough	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Diphtheria... ..	M	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	39	...	...	...	...	5	7	6	3	9	9	...
	F	13	...	...	...	...	2	7	2	...	2	...	...
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	M	4	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
	F	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
8 Syphilitic Diseases	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
	F	4	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...
9 Influenza	M	7	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	2	...	...
	F	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	1
10 Measles	M	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Acute Infective Encephalitis	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
13 Cancer of Buccal cavity & Oesophagus	M	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	6	3
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum... ..	M	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6	8	2
	F	28	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	6	13	4
15 Cancer of Uterus	F	16	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	7	4	1
16 Cancer of Breast	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	8	7	4
17 Cancer of all other sites	M	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	12	21	29	10
	F	61	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	11	15	23	7
18 Diabetes	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
	F	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
19 Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	M	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	19	38	23
	F	112	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	26	48	29
20 Heart Diseases	M	241	...	...	...	...	3	4	6	16	46	88	78
	F	220	...	...	...	...	2	3	7	11	26	79	92
21 Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	M	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	15	8
	F	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	9	17	13
22 Bronchitis... ..	M	107	4	1	...	...	...	...	5	5	28	48	16
	F	60	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	2	9	25	19
23 Pneumonia	M	29	11	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	5	4	4
	F	41	7	2	...	...	3	...	1	9	8	5	6
24 Other Respiratory Diseases	M	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	1	...
	F	16	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	8	3	...
25 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	M	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	M	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Appendicitis	M	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
	F	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
28 Other Digestive Diseases	M	14	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	6	3
	F	16	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	5	3
29 Nephritis	M	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	5	3
	F	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	8	4
30 Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis... ..	F	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
31 Other Maternal Causes	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
32 Premature Birth	M	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33 Congenital Malformation, birth injury, etc.	M	15	13	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	F	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 Suicide	M	14	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	5	3	2	1
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
35 Road Traffic Accidents	M	12	...	...	2	2	...	1	2	...	2	2	1
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
36 Other Violent Causes	M	12	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	4	1
	F	10	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	5
37 All Other Causes	M	81	2	1	...	2	...	1	5	4	6	29	31
	F	82	...	...	...	1	2	5	3	6	8	16	41

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1946. Deaths from stated causes and various ages under one year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 day.	1—2 days.	2—3 days.	3—4 days.	4—5 days.	5—6 days.	6—7 days.	Total under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under one month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total under 1 year.
ALL CAUSES—Certified ...	10	9	5	2	1	2	4	33	7	2	5	47	20	15	7	3	92
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	3	...	5
Pneumonia—Lobar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Broncho	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	4	5	6	...	2	17
Meningitis—Freidlanders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth ...	6	8	1	1	1	1	...	18	2	...	...	20	3	...	...	...	23
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	5
Spina Bifida ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	5	1	1	...	...	6
Congenital Heart Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
Intussusception ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Congenital Debility ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Icterus Neonatorum	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Haemolytic Anæmia...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	4	...	...	10
Accidental Death ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	3
TOTALS	10	9	5	2	1	2	4	33	7	2	5	47	20	15	7	3	92

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Pathological Services.

The pathological and bacteriological work of the department was undertaken by the Oldham Laboratory Board and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

The following figures show, in unit values, the work undertaken by the Board for the Oldham Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Department during the year.

	Specimens Examined.	Units.
Oldham Royal Infirmary ...	12,233	56,678
Boundary Park General Hospital	15,379	63,108
Public Health Department ...	1,413	7,225
Tuberculosis Dispensary ...	1,113	2,318
Westhulme Hospital	1,448	7,125
Strinesdale Sanatorium ...	629	1,423
Venereal Diseases Department	10,291	20,752
	42,506	158,629

Specimens were also examined for private practitioners and outside authorities from which the Board derived an income of £200 10s. 9d.

Early in the year the Committee agreed, with the approval of the Public Assistance Committee, to adapt certain premises in the grounds of the Westwood Park Institution for use as an animal house. The adaptations were completed towards the end of the year and in December application was made to the Secretary of State for registration of the premises.

In April, the Minister of Health approved the laboratories under the control of the Board for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Disease. Following this recognition there was a considerable increase in the amount of work undertaken for this department.

On September 26th, the new laboratory at Boundary Park General Hospital was officially opened by Dr. F. N. Marshall, Senior Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

At the end of the year, the work of the Board had further developed and extended and the number of specimens sent to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory had reduced considerably as the following figures show:—

Venereal Disease.

Wassermanns	...	...	...	...	...	625
Kahns	...	...	...	...	...	176
Gonococcal Fixation Tests	...	...	...	...	...	273
Microscopical	...	...	...	...	...	7

Milk.

For Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	...	172
Bacterial Count, etc.,	...	...	...	...	10
Methylene Blue Reduction Test	...	...	...	...	10
Reduction Test and B. Coli	...	...	...	...	15

Water.

Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	1

Supply of Insulin.

The arrangements for the supply of insulin in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2734 continued. During the year, 39 persons were supplied with insulin, including residents in other districts by arrangement with the District Councils concerned. The net cost to the Council was £68 11s. 0d.; patients' contributions amounted to £5 15s., and the amount received from out-districts was £11.

Supply of Liver Extract.

The arrangements for the supply of Liver Extract in certain cases continued and three persons received supplies. The net cost to the Council was £5 3s. 0d.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS—CORPORATION EMPLOYEES.

During the year the Medical Staff of the Department undertook medical examinations for the various Corporation Departments as follows:—

Department.	Entrants.	Disability Pensions.	Registered Disabled Persons.	Total
Baths and Wash Houses	7	—	1	
Borough Engineer & Surveyor's	21	3	—	
Borough Treasurer's	9	—	—	
Boundary Park General Hospital	45	4	—	
Cleansing and Transport	27	3	1	
Education	29	2	—	
Electricity	17	1	4	
Gas and Water	33	5	4	
Health	49	2	—	
Maternity and Child Welfare	23	1	—	
Parks and Cemeteries	30	2	—	
Passenger Transport	216	9	16	
Police	2	—	—	
Public Assistance	28	3	—	
Public Libraries	—	2	—	
Sewage	7	—	—	
Street Lighting	4	—	—	
Town Clerk's	12	—	—	
Waterworks	24	1	—	
Totals	583	38	26	647

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS.

Transport:—

Road Traffic Acts	63
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Education:—

Teachers	51
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Health	1
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For other Authorities	2
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Total	764
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BOUNDARY PARK GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The number of admissions, 9,346 shows a considerable increase compared with 7,943 for 1945. The number of confinements increased from 2,169 to 2,709.

In January, the Committee approved alterations to D.1 ward to provide for an Out-patients and Reception Unit, and application was made to the Ministry of Health for approval to undertake this work.

The conversion of the old tank house into a laboratory was completed in September. This laboratory will be of the greatest value and is another step towards the hospital being entirely up to date.

On October 28th, Mr. E. Henderson, F.R.C.S. (Ed.) Deputy Medical Superintendent, resumed duties on his return from service with H.M. Forces. Dr. N. V. Sapier, who was resident at the Westwood Park Institution, joined the R.A.M.C. in September and was succeeded by Dr. D. M. O'Hanlon.

(a) In-Patients.

1. Total number of admissions
(including infants born in Hospital) ... 9,346
2. Number of women confined in Hospital ... 2,709
3. Number of live births ... 2,652
4. Number of stillbirths ... 82
5. Number of deaths among Newly-born
(i.e., under four weeks of age)* ... 61
6. Total number of deaths of children under one year
(including those given under 5) ... 115
7. Number of Maternal Deaths among women admitted to
hospital for confinement ... 1
8. Total number of deaths ... 480
9. Total number of Discharges
(including infants born in Hospital) ... 9,005
10. Number of beds occupied (excluding cots in maternity wards)
 - (a) average during the year ... 387
 - (b) highest, 468 on 28-11-46.
 - (c) lowest, 315 on 5-1-47.
11. Number of Surgical Operations under general anaesthetic
(excluding dental operations) ... 2,143

* This figure only relates to children born in the hospital.

(b) Surgical Consultative Clinic.

Patients seen	1,596
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(c) Medical Consultative Clinic.

New Patients seen	441
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(d) Ante-Natal Clinic.

Number of Sessions held	520
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Attendances	20,759
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New cases attending	2,457
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929. ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEME.

During the year the Public Assistance Committee gave further consideration to the provision of hostel accommodation for cases other than sick who would normally be accommodated in the Westwood Park Institution, and many premises were inspected.

In June approval was received from the Minister of Health for the use of "Greenacres" and "Westlands" as homes for old people. No further progress was made in connection with the proposed appropriation of the Westwood Park Institution for public health purposes.

WESTWOOD PARK INSTITUTION.

The Westwood Park Institution continues to be administered by the Public Assistance Committee. In September, Dr. N. V. Sapier who was resident at the Institution, joined the R.A.M.C. and was succeeded by Dr. D. M. O'Hanlon.

HOSTELS FOR AGED PERSONS.

"Greenacres."

In January the Health Committee considered a request from the Public Assistance Committee for the transfer of Greenacres Maternity Home to that Committee for use as a hostel for aged persons. This request was referred to the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee and at a meeting held on the 15th February, it was resolved:—

"That the Greenacres Maternity Home be transferred to the Public Assistance Committee (by formal appropriation with the consent of the Ministry of Health) for the accommodation of non-sick cases, and that any necessary arrangements be made accordingly."

The Public Assistance Committee took over the premises as from the 25th March and two members of the resident staff were transferred to that Committee.

Greenacres ceased to be used as a maternity home on the 9th October, 1940, when the new Maternity Unit at Boundary Park Municipal Hospital was opened and the premises were transferred to the British Red Cross Society and Order of Saint John as from the 17th October, 1940, as an auxiliary hospital in connection with the Emergency Hospital Scheme. The home continued to be used for this purpose until November, 1945, when the Legal Advisor of the British Red Cross Society in London gave formal notice of the Society's intention to give up possession of these premises as from the 25th March, 1946. He expressed appreciation of the kindness and co-operation which was received from the Corporation during occupation.

Greenacres was opened in September, 1928, and in those early days met a real need. It was held in high esteem by patients and practitioners, and officials of the Ministry of Health regarded it as one of the best homes of its type in the country. As a convalescent home during the war years it has many happy associations. It will now undertake a new function and not again will the cry of the new born and the shout of the warrior disturb the peace and quiet. Instead those who have borne the heat and burden of the day will pass their eventide within its walls.

"The Hollies."

In November 1946 the Health Committee agreed that the premises known as "The Hollies", Frederick Street, and held on the trust attaching thereto (together with the sum of money then held in connection with such trust) be transferred to the Public Assistance Committee for use as an Aged Persons' Home. These premises were assigned to the Corporation in February, 1931 for the "object of the relieving of the sick or of poverty . . ." At one time it was intended to adapt the premises for use as a Maternity Home but the passing of the Local Government Act, 1929 gave the Health Committee full access for expectant mothers to be admitted to Boundary Park Hospital for confinement and it was difficult to decide a use for the premises.

Prior to the outbreak of war the premises were vacant for a short period but during the war years they served with very little adaptation as an ambulance depot. They proved most suitable for this purpose and were well fitted for the part-time volunteers who helped to man the depot. Following the closing down of Civil Defence the premises again became empty as the Health Committee had no purpose for which they could use them. They should prove most suitable as a Hostel for Aged Persons.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Centre is adjacent to the Town Hall. There are six branch centres in widely separated parts of the town. In February, negotiations were concluded for the use of the St. Ambrose Church premises on one afternoon each week as a branch welfare centre for the Watersheddings area.

In April, Mrs. M. Sharples, Superintendent Health Visitor and Superintendent School Nurse, resigned and was succeeded by Miss C. Graham.

Attendances at the Central Welfare Clinic during 1946.

Number of individual cases who attended, and who at the end of the year were:—

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	232
1—5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	34
					—	266

Number of attendances (mother and baby count as one):—

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,100
1—5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	448
					—	2,548

Total number of new cases attending:—

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	237
1—5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	32
					—	269

Number of sessions held ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Average attendance per session ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

Attendances at the Branch Centres during 1946.

Centre	Sessions	New Cases	Individual Cases Attending		Average Attendance	Total Attendances
			Under 1 year	1—5 years		
Brunswick	50	158	119	50	41	2,049
Hollinwood	50	129	119	85	84	4,220
Pitt Street East ...	50	144	125	120	42	2,100
St. Ambrose	49	156	124	32	34	1,666
St. Barnabas	50	141	120	21	30	1,535
Scottfield	50	168	127	44	36	1,797
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	299	896	734	352	267	13,367
	—	—	—	—	—	—

Births.

During the year 2,209 notifications of birth were received relating to 2,155 live births and 54 stillbirths. In addition, 1,398 notifications were received which were transferred to other authorities concerned.

The 2,209 live and stillbirths were notified by:—

Midwives ...	...	...	...	...	2,159
Doctors and Parents ...	...	...	...	...	50

Transferred Births.

The names and addresses of 1,402 infants and young children who left the borough (including children born in Oldham hospitals whose home addresses were outside the borough), were notified to the Medical Officers of Health of the areas of their destination, and 155 were notified as coming to live in the borough.

Health Visiting.

Details of visits made by Health Visitors:—

Visits to newly-born infants	1,704
Re-visits—Infants under 12 months	1,020
Infants 1—5 years	2,522
Visits to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	14
Measles	1,024
Whooping Cough	232
Infantile Deaths	55
Ante-Natal Cases	36
Miscellaneous Visits	1,005

Infant Life Protection.

The supervision of infants under the age of nine years, received for maintenance and reward, is carried out by Health Visitors. These children are visited frequently and are also medically examined at the Infant Welfare Centres. The following are the figures for 1946:—

Number of Foster Parents on the Register—

(a) at the beginning of the year	5
(b) at the end of the year	3

Number of Children on the Register—

(a) at the beginning of the year	5
(b) at the end of the year	3
(c) who died during the year	—

New cases during the year 2

Removed from the Register during the year:—

Returned to Parents	3
Over 9 years	1
Adopted by Foster Parents	—
Removed from the District	—
Transferred to Homes or Hostels	—

The Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

The Oldham Adoption Society submitted its third Annual Report. During the period, 23 applications for children were received and 18 adoptions completed. Two applicants obtained children from other sources and 4 applications were withdrawn. There is the closest co-operation between the Adoption Society and this department. The Committee approved a donation of five guineas to this Society towards the cost of providing medical and other necessary forms.

Care of Illegitimate Children.

The arrangements for the care of unmarried mothers and their children which had been approved by the Ministry of Health, were continued during the year and co-ordination was maintained with the Oldham Council for Moral Welfare. The local authority met the cost of maintenance of one unmarried mother in a hostel during the year.

DAY NURSERIES.

Following the receipt of joint Circular—Ministry of Health Circular 221/45, Ministry of Education Circular 75—regarding the future nursery provision for children under five, the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee reviewed the needs of the Borough. The total provision made at the time the Circular was received was as follows:—

Nursery.	No. of Places	Ages of Children	No. of places for resident children.
Fernholme	65	0—5 years	21
Park House	54	0—5 „	18
Thornycroft	46	0—5 „	15
Horsedge	50	0—5 „	—
Overens Street	37	0—5 „	—
Westhill	45	0—5 „	—
Derker	40	2—5 „	—
Greenacres	40	2—5 „	—
Limeside	40	2—5 „	—

In addition, the Education Committee provided the following nursery classes.

Nursery Classes.	Ages of Children	Number of places.
Watersheddings	2—5 years	40
St. Peter's	2—5 „	40
Richmond Street	2—5 „	40
Coldhurst	2—5 „	40

The Sub-Committee decided to retain the Horsedge, Overens Street, Westhill, Fernholme and Park House Nurseries (the two latter as residential nurseries). As the Thornycroft Nursery had not been utilised to capacity it was decided to discontinue its use, particularly in view of the fact that a nursery class was provided in the vicinity. The Education Committee, in response to an enquiry from the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee, intimated that they would welcome the opportunity to take over the Derker, Limeside and Greenacres Nurseries.

In view of the discontinuance of the 100% re-imbursement from the Ministry of Health, it was decided to increase the charges from 1/- per day and 1/6 for residents to 1/6 per day and 2/- for residents and 1/- for Saturday.

The revised arrangements were approved by the Ministry of Health.

The provision of wartime nurseries has met a definite need for working mothers, by whom the service has been much appreciated. The physical and mental care of the children has been carefully supervised.

Regular routine medical inspection has been carried out at the nurseries and all the children have been immunised against diphtheria. Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice have been given regularly, and attention has been paid to diet. Where necessary, children have been referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic for sunlight treatment, and the necessary transport has been provided. On the whole, the nurseries have been remarkably free from infection during the year.

In July the Sub-Committee agreed to transfer the nursery at Park House to alternative premises in Tate Street. These premises had previously been used as a Social Club by the Gas Department and plans for conversion were prepared.

On the 31st July, 1946, an enquiry was received from the Regional Welfare Officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service as to whether the authority would be prepared to consider making further nursery provision, in view of the need for women to continue in, and return to, cotton employment and industry generally over the emergency period, and the fact that all the Oldham nurseries were full and had waiting lists. The Sub-Committee considered this request, and subsequently a meeting with representatives of the Master Cotton Spinners' Association, Cotton Board, Ministry of Labour, private firms and the Education Committee, was held on the 21st November, 1946. As a result, a Joint Advisory Committee consisting of four representatives of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee, four representatives of the cotton industry, along with the Medical Officer of Health, the Director of Education and the Manager of the Employment Exchange, together with the Welfare Consultant of the Cotton Board, was appointed to consider the provision of additional nursery accommodation in the Borough.

Miss J. A. A. Beastall continued to superintend the educational activities of children aged 2 to 5 years.

Daily Guardians and "Sitters In."

The Sub-Committee decided to take no action on the recommendations contained in Circular 221/45 relating to daily guardians, being of the opinion that this method of caring for children was not satisfactory.

They requested that the possibility of the nurseries being utilised as crèches should be investigated and that a register of evening "sitters in" be compiled.

HOME AND DOMESTIC HELPS.

The arrangements for the provision of domestic and home helps in homes where there is sickness continued during the year and the following figures indicate the work done and the personnel employed during the year.

		Personnel Employed.		Number of cases in which assist- ance was given.
		Part Time	Full Time	
Home Helps ...	...	2	—	5
Domestic Helps ...	...	8	2	39

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

At the beginning of the year 10 midwives were employed by the Council. There were 4 new appointments and 4 resignations.

In February, arrangements were made for an ante-natal clinic to serve the Watersheddings area, to be held weekly in the St. Ambrose Church premises.

During the year, 3 municipal midwives obtained certificates of proficiency in the administration of gas and air analgesia, having received the necessary instruction at Boundary Park General Hospital. Nitrous oxide and air analgesia was administered to 75 patients on the district during the year.

The following is a summary of the work done by the municipal midwives during the year:—

Confinements.

Number of cases booked ...	...	...	...	609
Number of confinements attended ...	...	...	...	482
Number of cases receiving analgesia ...	...	...	...	75

Visits.

Ante-Natal ...	...	...	...	4,703
During lying-in period ...	...	...	...	8,680
Post Natal ...	...	...	...	17

Fees.

Patients paying full fee ...	...	...	...	454
Patients paying reduced fee ...	...	...	...	23
Necessitous cases (no fee) ...	...	...	...	5

Amount of fees received, £992.

During the year 2,209 live and stillbirths were notified, of these 1,582 (or 71·62%) were institutional, and 627 (or 28·38%) domiciliary. Of the latter, 481 (or 76·71%) were attended by municipal midwives and the remaining 146 (or 23·29%) by midwives in private practice.

Supervision of Midwives.

During the year 54 midwives notified their intention to practise, compared with 69 in 1945. Of these, 13 were municipal midwives; 3 midwives in private practice; 33 midwives in Boundary Park General Hospital and 5 midwives in the Woodfield Nursing Home.

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Artificial Feeding	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

There were 306 medical aid forms sent in by midwives as compared with 282 in 1945. The conditions for which medical aid was sought were as follows:—

Conditions in Mother.

Ante-partum haemorrhage...	11
Other Ante-natal conditions	24
Abortion or Threatened	
Abortion	2
Adherent Placenta	5
Breast Infections	4
B.B.A	2
Delayed Labour	17
Foetal Distress	5
Malpresentations	10
Maternal distress	2
Obstetric Shock	3
Phlebitis	5
Placenta Praevia	2
Post-Maturity	1
Post-partum Haemorrhage ...	2
Pyrexia	12
Rigor	1
Ruptured Perineum	102
Twin Pregnancy	1
Toxaemia	20
Other conditions	5

Total ... 236

Conditions in Child.

Feebleness or Premature ...	4
Inflammation of or discharge	
from the Eyes	49
Abnormalities	4
Circumcision	3
Convulsions	2
Skin Infections	3
Umbilical Haemorrhage ...	1
Umbilical Hernia	1
Other Conditions	3

Total ... 70

The total cost of these claims was £223 8s. 0d. of which £179 11s. 6d. was recovered from the patients.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 11 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified. The following are the results of these cases:—

Vision unimpaired ...	...	...	...	...	7
Still under treatment	...	...	...	...	2
Died ...	...	...	...	...	—
Removed from district	...	...	...	...	2

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case of Pyrexia was notified by a private practitioner during the year.

Emergency Maternity Unit.

This service continued to operate in accordance with the arrangements for previous years and was called out on numerous occasions during the year.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

The arrangements for the inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers continued throughout the year, and the following is a summary of the treatment given and the fees received during 1946.

Patients treated	...	...	...	...	161
Attendances of patients	...	...	...	...	675
Extractions	...	...	...	...	769
Fillings	...	...	...	...	25
General anæsthetics given	...	...	...	...	50
Other operations	...	...	...	...	580
Scalings	...	...	...	...	51
Dentures provided	...	...	...	...	81
Patients paying full fee	...	...	...	...	16
Patients paying reduced fee	...	...	...	...	9
Necessitous cases (no fee)	...	...	...	...	24

Amount of fees received, £56 1s. 0d.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During the year there were 5 deaths attributed to childbirth. These were true maternal deaths giving a maternal mortality rate of 2.29 per thousand total live and stillbirths. Of these deaths, one was a septic abortion and was originally brought to the notice of this department as query food poisoning. Excluding the one abortion death, the rate is 1.83. The cause of death in each case was as follows:—

“A”—Deaths due to Sepsis: 2.

Case No. 1. Age 23.

1. (a) Cardiac Failure.
- (b) Infarction of Heart.
- (c) Confinement 14 days ago.

Case No. 2. Age 31.

1. Puerperal Sepsis following abortion caused by injection of fluid into the uterus probably by deceased herself.
2. Uterine Haemorrhage.

“B”—Deaths due to other Puerperal Causes: 3.

Case No. 3. Age 31.

1. (a) Myocardial Degeneration.
- (b) Chronic Anaemia.
- (c) Pregnancy

Case No. 4. Age 39.

Internal haemorrhage due to ruptured pregnant uterus.

Case No. 5. Age 25.

1. (a) Pulmonary Embolism.
- (b) Confinement (operative delivery).

THE ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

The Orthopaedic Clinic provides treatment for cases from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, the School Health Service, the Tuberculosis Dispensary and from private practitioners. During the year 10,605 attendances were made by patients.

In March Mr. H. Poston tendered his resignation as Orthopaedic Surgeon and arrangements were made for Mr. J. C. Jefferson F.R.C.S., to act as Visiting Surgeon. He continued these duties until Miss E. L. Willis, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., F.R.C.S., who was appointed Orthopaedic Surgeon in July, was able to take up duties.

At the end of the year Miss Willis was holding a weekly clinic for ordinary orthopaedic cases, and a monthly clinic for tuberculosis cases requiring orthopaedic supervision and treatment. Miss Willis also held operative sessions at Boundary Park General Hospital.

In June arrangements were made for Miss H. I. Schofield, Masseuse, to attend a special course at the Brompton Hospital, London, with a view to the establishment of a special Asthma Clinic. The Clinic commenced in November and all patients referred were seen by the Consultant Physician prior to receiving treatment. At the end of the year 1 school child and three adults had received treatment under this arrangement.

The following table shows the defects from which the cases examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon were suffering and the source of reference of these cases.

Defects	Source of Reference				Total Number of Cases Referred
	Maternity and Child Welfare	School Health Service	Tuberculosis Dispensary	Private Doctors	
Postural Defects ... ..	...	14	...	...	14
Little's Disease	4	...	...	1	5
Paresis ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Spastic Paralysis ... ..	...	13	...	...	13
Infantile Paralysis	1	5	...	5	11
Torticollis	7	4	...	...	11
Brevicollis	1	...	...	...	1
Congenital Deformity	18	7	...	2	27
Other Deformities	10	18	...	3	31
Injuries (including Fractures) ...	...	6	...	6	12
Genu-Valgum	87	26	...	...	113
Genu-Varum	29	8	...	1	38
Pes Planus	22	28	...	...	50
Pes Planus with Genus Vulgum	25	8	...	...	33
Pes Cavus ... ..	...	1	...	2	3
Hallux Valgus ... ..	...	...	...	2	2
Osteomyelitis ... ..	...	2	...	3	5
Rheumatism ... ..	...	3	...	...	3
Arthritis ... ..	...	1	...	17	18
Amputations ... ..	...	...	...	3	3
Pronated feet ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Exostosis ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Erythro-Cynosis ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Tuberculosis Bones and Joints ...	...	...	62	...	62
Other conditions	4	5	...	3	12
Totals ...	208	150	62	51	471
The other conditions include:—					
Skin Lesion ... ..	...	1	...	...	...
Epiphysitis ... ..	...	4	...	...	...
Pseudo-Coxalgia ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Neuralgia ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Neurasthenia ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Coeliac	2	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...

WATER SUPPLY.

The Waterworks Engineer and Manager (Mr. C. Busfield) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

“During the past year a constant supply of water of a high standard of purity has been maintained to all premises within the Corporation’s area of supply, which are supplied through the Department’s domestic distribution system.

Reserves of water have been well maintained, and no restrictions of any kind relating to the use of water have been imposed, while the supply to practically all dwelling houses within the Department’s area of supply, numbering about 66,500, is taken direct to the houses and few supplies are provided by standpipes. The estimated population supplied by the Department in the area of supply is 216,000.

During 1946 samples of water have been submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination as follows:—

Reservoir.	Chemical.	Bacteriological	Remarks.
Piethorne.			
Raw Water.	—	1	B.Coli present in one sample—13 per 100 c.c.
After Sterilisation.	3	12	B.Coli present in three samples—2 per 100 c.c.
Hanging Lees.			
Raw Water.	—	1	B.Coli present in one sample—5 per 100 c.c.
After Sterilisation.	4	12	No B.Coli in 100 c.c.
Castleshaw.			
Raw Water.	—	1	B.Coli present in one sample—13 per 100 c.c.
After Filtration and Sterilisation.	4	10	No B.Coli in 100 c.c.
Readycon Dean.			
Raw Water.	—	1	No B.Coli in 100 c.c.
After Filtration and Sterilisation.	4	12	No B.Coli in 100 c.c.

The pH values of the water supplied from the Piethorne and Hanging Lees sources, all of which is unfiltered, vary between 5.5 and 8.0, while the pH values of the water supplied from the Castleshaw and Readycon Dean sources, which is filtered, range between 6.5 and 8.0. No cases of contamination by lead of the water supplied have been notified.”

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Taylor, the Sewage Works Manager, for the following information:—

“The Sewage Works were originally designed to purify the sewage by treatment in sedimentation tanks and ash filters. Subsequently contact beds and percolating filters were installed, the contact beds being discarded in 1936 as a method of treatment. The present system of treatment was used for the first time in 1938, and consists of detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, diffused-air partial activated sludge tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks.

Prior to 1938, sludge produced on the Works was disposed of by lagooning; it is now treated in heated sludge digestion tanks and the resultant sludge gas utilised for heating boilers, fires, etc.

The works treat the whole of the sewage from the County Borough together with a portion of the sewage from the adjoining Urban District of Lees.

During the past year the purification plant has, generally speaking, functioned well, except during periods of very dry and hot weather. The whole of the air-diffuser tiles in the activated sludge plant were again cleaned, resulting in a saving in power costs. Of the 14 rotary distributors to be renewed on the percolating filters, 4 were completed, and up to the end of the year had given every satisfaction; these were of the “Simplon” type with mercury seals.

One separating tank was out of use for the greater part of the year because of a broken driving cog on the sludge scraper mechanism and at the end of the year it was still out of use.

Considerable loss in the amount of sludge gas produced in the digestion plant was noticed in the early part of the year and a serious leak was found in the roof of No. 2 unit, this necessitated the shutting down and the removal of the sludge from this tank so that the inside of the roof could be inspected. During the emptying some trouble was experienced due to the high grit content of a portion of the sludge and the inability of the suction pumps to deal with it. The sludge and grit were finally removed by mixing with large volumes of sedimentation tank effluent and this experience does seem to point out that in our case it would be best to empty each unit of sludge completely, at least once per year.

The amount of sludge gas produced from the heated sludge digestion units averaged approximately 80,000 cubic feet per day, the gas was used on the Sewage Works.

Samples of the final effluents being discharged into the Wince Brook were taken periodically by the Lancashire Rivers Board, and only one failed to be classed as satisfactory and this was due to its excessive amount of suspended matter.

The total sludge production during the year was 38,000 tons which is equal to 16·1 tons per million gallons of sewage treated.

The total amount of sewage received for treatment during the year was 2,359,130,382 gallons which is equal to an average daily flow of 6,463,371 gallons.

The average analytical results expressed in parts per 100,000 with four hours Oxygen absorption at 26·7° C. (March to December) are:—

Sewage 8·91	Tank Effluent 5·84	Final Effluent 1·46''
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PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Director of Public Cleansing (Mr. A. Millward) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

There are no ashpits in the Borough. All the house refuse from the 39,708 ash cans is collected by motor vehicles. 50% is dealt with by tipping under the controlled system, and the remainder by separation and incineration at the Refuse Disposal Works.

There is only one Refuse Disposal Works, and this is situated at Rhodes Bank. The Cleansing and Transport Committee intend to proceed with the erection of a new Refuse Disposal Works on the Glodwick Road Site, and this will replace the existing works at Rhodes Bank.

It may be of interest to note that from the 1st October, 1939, to the 31st December, 1946, the quantity of material salvaged was 18,373 tons and the amount realised £64,734, this includes:—

5,184 tons of paper which realised	...	...	...	£29,090
4,642 tons of raw kitchen waste which realised	...	...	...	£ 9,529
3,218 tons of concentrated waste which realised	...	...	...	£14,580
3,666 tons of baled scrap which realised	...	...	...	£ 6,186
650 tons of bottles and jars which realised	...	...	...	£ 1,724
1,013 tons of sundry material which realised	...	...	...	£ 3,625

The conversion of the sanitary pail closets to the fresh water system goes on very slowly. The Surveyor's Department are finding many engineering difficulties in the way of rapid conversion.

There are 163 miles of streets in the Borough cleansed as follows:—

Daily	...	...	...	...	6 miles
Three times weekly	...	...	...	...	9 miles
Twice weekly	...	...	...	...	7½ miles
Once weekly	...	...	...	...	102½ miles
Less than once weekly	...	...	...	...	38 miles
Square yards of street cleansed (exclusive of footpaths)	...	...	...	...	1,839,200

Gulley cleansing.

Number of gullies cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	18,782
Number of cleansings during the year	...	...	...	...	...	49,616

The following figures indicate the amount of work done during the year:—

House and Trade Refuse Collection.

Number of Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	...	...	2,022,351
„ Sanitary Pails emptied	...	...	...	...	...	47,828
„ Collection of Garbage	...	...	...	...	...	17,628
„ Loads of excreta collected	...	...	...	...	...	572
„ „ Garbage Collected	...	...	...	...	...	595
„ Tons of Ashes taken to Refuse Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	13,360
„ „ „ Corporation Tips	...	...	...	...	...	12,944
„ „ Clinker removed from Refuse Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	7,269
„ „ Baled tins sold	...	...	...	...	...	604
„ „ Mortar sold	...	...	...	...	...	528

Waste Water Closets and Latrines.

Blockages cleared (W.W.C.'s)	...	...	...	...	...	5,348
Blockages cleared (Latrines)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	125
Drains found blocked, requiring excavating	...	...	...	...	...	322
Tippers found not working and re-adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tippers, fittings, etc., found broken	...	...	...	...	...	1,508
New Tippers, fittings, etc., fixed	...	...	...	...	...	1,349
Visits paid flushing latrines	...	...	...	...	...	8,643

Closet Accommodation.

The total number and type of closets in the borough at the end of 1946 are shown below:—

Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	15,527
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	24,204
Latrines	...	...	...	...	2,299
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	874

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1946. During the year Mr. D. W. Saunders and Mr. E. C. Elford were appointed Assistant Sanitary Inspectors and Mr. J. Mann and Mr. D. J. Cowen resigned to take up similar appointments elsewhere. I wish to place on record Mr. Mann's eleven years of loyal service in the department.

The number of common lodging houses in the borough was further reduced and the largest of these, which had been a source of trouble to the department for some considerable time, was voluntarily closed.

During the last eight years approximately 43% of cow carcasses examined were found to be affected with Tuberculosis. The number of samples for analysis taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, showed a decrease compared with the previous year, this was mainly due to the shortage of staff. I am pleased to report that as a result of action taken by the department, two of the large wholesale and retail dairymen have opened new dairies during the year.

In conclusion I wish to tender to yourself and members of the staff my sincere thanks for the willing help and co-operation I have received during the year.

Yours respectfully,

HAROLD V. CASS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspectors.

During the year, 6,981 visits and 1,603 revisits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with inspections under the various Acts.

Summary of Action taken and Work carried out:—

Number of complaints received ...	...	...	...	...	1,380
Referred to other Departments ...	...	...	...	...	488
Letters to Owners, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	1,346
Cases reported to Committee ...	...	...	...	...	2,320
Cases taken in Court ...	...	...	...	...	10

Disrepair.

Roofs repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	418
Walls and Chimneys repaired or rebuilt ...	...	...	...	...	207
Wall plaster repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	222
Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	120
Floors repaired or relaid ...	...	...	...	...	77
Windows repaired ...	...	...	...	...	103
Extra Lighting provided ...	...	...	...	...	9
Ventilation provided or improved ...	...	...	...	...	66
Ranges or Fireplaces repaired, re-set or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	111
Staircases repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	17
Handrails provided or repaired ...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired ...	...	...	...	...	49
Food Stores provided or altered ...	...	...	...	...	6

Washing accommodation provided or repaired ...	...	...	24
Rooms, cleansed or redecorated ...	...	...	30
Contents of rooms cleansed or destroyed ...	...	...	3
Dampness remedied Rising ...	...	...	6
Penetrating ...	...	...	9
Outbuildings repaired ...	...	...	17
Courts, Yards and Passages paved or repaved...	...	...	41
Cleansed...	...	...	7
Obstructive buildings removed ...	...	...	2

Sanitary Defects.

Drainage.....Cleansed ...	...	...	198
Repaired or altered ...	...	...	186
Reconstructed ...	...	...	24
Provided ...	...	...	3
Public Sewers.....Cleansed ...	...	...	3
Repaired or altered ...	...	...	2
Reconstructed ...	...	...	4
Eaves Gutters repaired or renewed, cleansed ...	...	...	281
Rain Water Pipes repaired or renewed ...	...	...	137
Disconnected ...	...	...	23
Sinks renewed or provided ...	...	...	55
Sink Waste Pipes repaired or renewed ...	...	...	59
Water Closets.....Provided ...	...	...	13
Repaired ...	...	...	93
Cleansed ...	...	...	11
Waste Water Closets Repaired ...	...	...	146
Cleansed ...	...	...	39
Closets converted to Water Closets (or abolished)—	...	...	—
Latrine ...	...	...	14
Waste Water ...	...	...	4
Other Closets.....Provided ...	...	...	1
Repaired ...	...	...	16
Cleansed ...	...	...	3
Soil Pipes repaired or renewed ...	...	...	1
Water supply provided or improved ...	...	...	16

Miscellaneous.

Dustbins repaired or renewed ...	...	...	627
Extra provided ...	...	...	13
Nuisances abated.....Animals and Birds ...	...	...	10
Accumulations ...	...	...	18
Other Conditions ...	...	...	8
Information in Rent Books ...	...	...	2

Common Lodging Houses.

At the beginning of the year seven premises, providing accommodation for 332 persons, were on the register. One was voluntarily closed and another discontinued and demolished, leaving five on the register, with accommodation for 84 persons; of these, four receive men only and one women only.

Offensive Trades.

Offensive trades carried on in the Borough, numbering 20 in all, are as follows:—

Tripe Boilers...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	8
Gut Scrapers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hide and Skin Depôt	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical Works	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/> 20 <hr/>

During the year 5 visits were paid to these premises. No notices were served in respect of defects.

Bakehouses.

During the year 20 new premises were registered, and 4 were discontinued, leaving 281 on the register at the end of the year.

One basement bakehouse remains in use, the Council having granted a certificate permitting its use for a period of 5 years from 1st October, 1944.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

The following inspections were made:—

(a) Factories with mechanical power	...	...	140
(b) Factories without mechanical power	...	...	23

It was found necessary to serve 30 notices.

The following defects were found and remedied. No cases were referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories and no prosecutions were instituted.

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary Accommodation:—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	3
Unsuitable or Defective	...	...	...	...	10
Not Separate	...	...	...	...	1

Registered Workshops. During the year 599 Factories and Workshops—474 mechanical and 125 non-mechanical, were on the Register.

Outworkers. Four lists relating to 26 outworkers were received during the year. The premises were found to be satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement. During the year 15 smoke observations of 30 minutes duration were taken. The extent of the emission of black smoke was as follows:—

No black smoke	...	...	...	...	...	3
Under 1 minute	...	...	...	...	...	2
1—2 minutes	...	...	...	...	...	2
2—3 minutes	...	...	...	...	...	1
3—4 minutes	...	...	...	...	...	1
Over 4 minutes	...	...	...	...	...	6

Where the extent of emission of smoke was over 2 minutes, advice was given and an improvement effected.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year 393 complaints were received, in 234 of these cases it was found that the rat infestation was due to defective drainage.

RAT SURVEY.

(1) Circular N.S.12—Private Dwellings Special Scheme.

In September the Ministry's Special Scheme was accepted, whereby the Ministry undertook to reimburse 100% of the cost involved in the systematic search of all private dwellings, and 60% of the cost of treatment. It was also approved that 6 additional rodent operators and 1 supervisor be appointed to carry out this survey.

Later in the year the Divisional Rodent Officer, Ministry of Food, Manchester, intimated that it was the Ministry's intention that business premises should be included in the survey.

The Survey was commenced on 17th September, 1946, and the following are details of the position as at the 31st December, 1946.

Private Dwellings.

No Access	...	...	...	...	277
No Infestation	...	...	...	...	33,660
Reported Infested by Rats	...	...	...	...	1,026
Reported Infested by Mice	...	...	...	...	132
Total Houses visited	...	...	...	...	35,095

Houses reported infested by rats are being revisited and investigations made.

Infestation not confirmed—No action required	200
Infestation Confirmed—Referred to Inspectors	289
Infestation under investigation	458
	<hr/>
Total Houses revisited	947
	<hr/>
Notices Complied—Premises Cleared	52
Notices Outstanding	74
Receiving attention	163
	<hr/>
Total Number referred to Inspectors	289
	<hr/>

Business Premises. (In progress at 31st December, 1946).

No access	263
No infestation	2,812
Reported infested by rats	153
Reported infested by mice	138
	<hr/>
Total Visited	3,366
	<hr/>
Infestation not confirmed—No action required	1
Infestation Confirmed—In hand by Inspectors	16
	<hr/>
	17
	<hr/>

(2) Circular N.S.11—Sewer Maintenance Treatments.

The Ministry's Scheme for sewer maintenance treatment was also accepted, and the Ministry undertook to reimburse 30% of the total overall costs of the two maintenance treatments in the financial year 1946/47.

A sewer maintenance treatment was carried out during the year, and the Borough Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. A. L. Hobson) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

Number of manholes baited	1,023
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take ...	870
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take	559

On the basis of these figures, using formulae given by the Ministry of Food, it is estimated that the total number of deaths was 16,490, the average intensity of infestation for the areas baited was 53.27%, and the average extent of infestation was 64.2%. The manner of the treatment was varied from that previously undertaken, in accordance with the revised procedure authorised by the Ministry. Baiting was carried out on two consecutive days and on the third day a poisoned bait was put down. The bait base was sausage rusk and the poison zinc phosphide.

HOUSING.

Pre-War Slum Clearance. At the end of the year 3 families affected by pre-war slum clearance schemes, were still awaiting re-housing.

The demolition of properties affected by outstanding clearance orders was continued and 4 individual unfit houses were demolished by such action.

Other Demolitions. Information was received with regard to the demolition of one house by voluntary action.

Individual Unfit Houses. It was found necessary to make Demolition Orders in respect of 37 houses involving the displacement of 47 families (128 persons). At the end of the year 19 families (60 persons) had moved into Corporation houses, and 2 families (4 persons) had found their own accommodation. The following is a summary of the individual unfit houses dealt with during the years 1943 to 1946:—

Year	Houses Represented	No. of Families	No. of Persons ¹	Houses Vacated	Persons Rehoused		Total No. of Persons awaiting Rehousing at Dec. 31st.	Houses Demolished	Total No. of Houses awaiting Demolition at Dec. 31st
					By Corporation	By Own Arrangements			
1943-5	43	32	131	36	95	13	23	27	16
1946	37	47	128	22	60	4	87	20	33

Overcrowding. During the year 29 new cases of overcrowding were discovered.

Housing Act, 1936—Section 59. Legal proceedings were instituted against a person for an offence against the above Section (refusing suitable alternative accommodation). The Magistrates, after careful consideration, decided not to impose a fine, but to allow the defendant a further period of 28 days in which to make arrangements to vacate his present premises and to accept the offer of the four-bedroomed Corporation house. The defendant accepted the tenancy in the time allotted.

Oldham Corporation Act, 1925—Section 233. An application was received during the year from the manager of a local firm, for permission to keep a modern motor caravan in the yard of his firm's premises, owing to his inability to obtain a house locally. Permission was granted for six months subject to review at the end of that time.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. The following figures show the number of houses inspected and the number disinfested:—

	Corporation.	Others.
Houses inspected	208	121
Found infested during year	9	40
Disinfested by H.C.N. ...	9	9
Disinfested by spraying with liquid insecticide ...	12	91

During the year the furniture of 35 families was disinfested prior to removal to Corporation houses.

DISINFECTION.

The arrangements for disinfection continued as in previous years. During the year 62,953 articles were disinfested and 1,634 destroyed. The total number of houses disinfested was 1,164 and 5,731 rooms.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 83. Legal proceedings were instituted against a person for an offence against the above Section. The Magistrates imposed a fine of £2. 0. 0. and ordered the defendant to put the premises into a clean and wholesome condition forthwith.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 154. During the year one rag gatherer was prosecuted for exchanging toys for rags, when a fine of £5. 0. 0. was imposed.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The General Superintendent of Baths, Mr. J. M. Buckley, has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

“Five of the establishments have modern filtration plants, and borrowing powers have been sanctioned in respect of the installation of a modern filtration plant at the Central Baths and the tender has been let.

In respect of the remaining bath to have modern filtration plant installed, it is the intention of the Baths Committee to seek loan sanction from the Ministry to instal a modern filtration plant and provision will be made accordingly in next year's estimates.

All establishments are now fitted with chlorinating plants and briefly the method taken to ensure satisfactory condition of the water, is continuous filtration and application of Chlorine Gas through the Filtrate to ensure a residue of .2 to .5 parts per million and PH maintained between 7.0 and 7.6.

All tests are taken by means of a Lovibond Comparator.”

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk Samples. During the year 185 samples of milk were reported upon for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Of these, 107 were from farms within the borough, six (5.60%) of which contained Tubercle Bacilli. The remaining 78 were from milk produced outside the borough, of these four, (5.12%) contained Tubercle Bacilli.

There were nine animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, following investigation in respect of the above positive samples.

There were 21 samples of raw and heat treated milk examined, of these ten had a Bacterial Count of under 200,000 per c.c. and/or the absence of B. Coli.

Milk Purveyors. The following figures have been compiled from the register:—

Milk Shops on Register, January 1st, 1946 ...	509
Discontinued during the year	—
Registered during the year	—
Milk Shops on Register at December 31st, 1946	509

At the end of the year there were 26 Oldham farmers on the Register, and 123 farmers and dairymen residing outside the borough.

Dairies and Cowsheds. There were 26 farms in the borough, comprising 62 cowsheds, housing approximately 468 cows.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946. The following licences were issued:—

- 1 Supplementary licence to sell milk as "Tuberculin Tested."
- 4 Licences to produce and sell milk as "Accredited."
- 5 Supplementary licences to sell milk as "Accredited."
- 9 Supplementary licences to sell milk as "Pasteurised."
- 1 Licence in respect of Pasteurising Establishments.

During the year, 129 samples of designated milk were submitted for examination—90 Pasteurised for Bacterial Count, Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests; 22 Accredited for Methylene Blue, B. Coli and Coliform Tests; and 17 Tuberculin Tested for Bacterial Count, B. Coli and Methylene Blue Tests; of these 15 Pasteurised, 3 Accredited and 1 Tuberculin Tested failed to conform to the standard of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1946, were made at the beginning of the year as an amendment to the 1936 order and became operative on the 1st March. The amendment under these regulations requires both pasteurised and tuberculin tested/pasteurised milks to satisfy:—

- (a) The Phosphatase Test, the effectiveness of this now being well established as a test whether milk has been adequately heat treated.

- (b) The 30 minute Methylene Blue Reduction Test, which replaces the Plate Count Test and is a better guide to cleaner milk production.

These requirements have been added to the conditions of licence.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Section 22. During the year two dairy-men were registered in new premises, the registration of their previous premises being cancelled.

Milk and Dairies Orders, 1926-1938—Articles 7 & 14. Legal proceedings were instituted against a firm for depositing milk in a stable. When the summonses were heard it was upheld that there was no case to answer. This was based on the fact that whereas the Summonses specified offences alleged to have been committed on one day, these offences were brought to light by an inspection made on the following day, and owing to the fact that the defendant's roundsman had not been cautioned, it was not permissible for evidence to be given as to the roundsman's admission that the milk had been deposited in the stables on the previous evening.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926—Article 31 (2). One farmer was prosecuted during the year for unlawfully causing a bottle to be filled with milk otherwise than on registered premises. The Magistrates imposed a fine of £4. 0. 0.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The Ministry of Food continued to use one slaughterhouse, with the exception of the latter three months of the year, when, due to an increase in the amount of cattle to be killed, an additional slaughterhouse had to be brought into use.

The concentration of slaughtering has again proved invaluable in assisting the Department to obtain a 100% inspection and control.

Provision of Public Abattoir.

The need for the provision of a Public Abattoir as a post-war development was under discussion by the Health Committee during the early months of 1945, when it was fully realised that the centralisation of slaughtering would facilitate the work of Meat Inspectors and provide a very satisfactory solution to many other problems.

Prior to September, 1939, 29 premises were used as slaughter-houses, of these 27 were privately owned. Many of these were very old adapted buildings, structurally defective and unsatisfactory from a public health point of view. Some shared a common yard with dwelling houses while in other cases the premises were adjacent to, and overlooked by dwelling houses and other buildings.

The Committee visited Public Abattoirs of neighbouring authorities and it was agreed that representatives of the Local Butchers Association, who were favourably disposed to the project, should be invited to discuss the matter, when the future intentions of the Government had been determined.

In July of the same year, the Markets and Baths Committee discussed the question of the erection of a Public Abattoir, but consideration of the matter was adjourned to ascertain the views of the Health Committee. Towards the end of the year it was agreed that the policy of the Ministry of Food regarding the continuance or otherwise of the existing arrangements for centralised slaughtering should be sought and also the policy of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

At a meeting of the General Purposes Sub-Committee held on the 14th March, 1946, the Committee agreed in principle to the establishment of a Public Abattoir in the Borough and the Markets and Baths Committee were informed accordingly.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)...	3538	3345	4073	34975	126
Number inspected	3538	3345	4073	34975	126
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:					
Whole Carcases con- demned	—	23	9	12	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	823	1354	8	1471	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	23·261	41·166	0·417	4·240	3·174
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole Carcases con- demned	5	80	7	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	426	1496	5	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12·182	47·115	0·294	—	4·762

The following figures show the percentage of cows affected with Tuberculosis for the years 1943—1946.

				Cow Carcasses Examined		Percentage affected with Tuberculosis
1943	...	...	...	1410	...	60·14
1944	...	...	...	1994	...	50·55
1945	...	...	...	2568	...	44·47
1946	...	...	...	3345	...	47·11

The total weight of meat and offal destroyed was—for tuberculosis, 101,537 lbs.; for diseases other than tuberculosis, 57,049 lbs.

Summary of Diseased and Unsound Food destroyed during 1946.

Cattle	(108 whole carcasses)	...	...	57,699 lbs.
Sheep	(12 ,, ,, )	...	...	798 lbs.
Pigs	(2 ,, ,, )	...	...	235 lbs.
Calves	(16 ,, ,, )	...	...	779 lbs.
Parts of carcasses and Offal				
(5,591 Cattle, Sheep, Pigs and Calves)				99,075 lbs.
Preserved Food	...	...	...	8,347 lbs.
Flour, Oatmeal and Barley	...	...	...	3,029 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	1,628 lbs.
Frozen Meat and Beef	...	...	...	457 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	211 lbs.
Butter and Margarine	...	...	...	172 lbs.
Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	135 lbs.
Poultry and Game	...	...	...	82 lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Vegetable Sausage	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Total				172,677 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. The Department granted 14 renewal licences during the year.

Horseflesh. Two shops remain open in the borough for the sale of horseflesh. Arrangements for slaughtering and inspection continued as in the previous year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The total number of samples analysed during 1946 was 243, compared with 324 for 1945.

Number of Samples Purchased for Analysis.

Articles	Number of Samples of each article examined			Number of Samples of each Article regarded as adulterated, below standard, or otherwise not complying with prescribed requirements		
	Formally taken	In-formally taken	Total	Formally taken	In-formally taken	Total
Milk	201	—	201	11	—	11
Whisky	5	—	5	1	—	1
Rum	3	—	3	3	—	1
Baking Powder ...	—	5	5	—	1	1
Ground Ginger ...	—	4	4	—	—	—
Custard Powder ...	—	4	4	—	—	—
Epsom Salts	—	3	3	—	—	—
Carbonate of Magnesia	—	2	2	—	—	—
Iodine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Medicinal Ointments	—	2	2	—	—	—
Calamine Lotion ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Gelatine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Sage and Onion Stuffing	—	2	2	—	—	—
Magnesia Oxide ...	—	1	1	—	1	1
Self-Raising Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	1	1	—	—	—
Castor Oil	—	1	1	—	—	—
Petroleum Jelly ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Zinc and Castor Oil Cream	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	209	34	243	13	2	15

Results of Action taken with regard to Samples Not Genuine.

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
42	Milk	3.3% fat deficiency	No action taken.
49	Milk	7.7% added water	Fined £10. £2. 12. 6. Analyst fees and £3. 3. Advocate's fees.
50	Milk	25.4% added water	Fined £15. £2 12. 6. Analyst fees and £3 3 Advocate's fees.
61	Milk	18.3% fat deficiency	No action taken.
62	Milk	29.3% fat deficiency	No action taken.
64	Milk	*3.3% fat deficiency	No action taken.
66	Milk	*26.6% fat deficiency	No action taken.
67	Milk	*16.6% fat deficiency	No action taken.
68	Milk	3.3% fat deficiency	No action taken.
74	Milk	3.3% fat deficiency	No action taken.
101	Milk	6.6% fat deficiency	No action taken.
206	Rum	6.65% added water	Dismissed under pro- bation of Offenders Costs and Analyst's fees.
208	Whisky	9.28% added water *Appeal to Cow Sam- ple from samples 61 and 62.	Case dismissed, spirit reported to be brandy by Government chemist.
A.9	Magnesia Oxide	Not in accordance with B.P. require- ments.	No action taken.
A.22	Heavy Baking Powder	Deficient in available carbon dioxide to the extent of 37.5%	No action taken.

Poultry and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926—Section 12. Three samples of balancer meal were taken during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the Attack Rate and Death Rate.

Disease	Attack Rate per 1,000 of the Population		Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population		Death Rate per 1,000 Cases
	England & Wales	Oldham	England & Wales	Oldham	
Small Pox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria...	0.28	0.44	0.01	0.03	58.82
Erysipelas ...	0.2	0.24	—	0.02	71.43
Scarlet Fever ...	1.38	1.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Enteric Fever ...	0.03	0.07	0.00	0.02	250
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	8.50*	0.46*	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia..	0.89	0.58	—	0.18	308.82
Measles ...	3.92	16.59	0.00	0.02	1.03
Whooping Cough ...	2.28	2.24	0.02	0.02	7.69
Influenza ...	—	—	0.15	0.11	—

*Rates per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still).

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year there were 51 cases notified as compared with 62 in 1945. There were 3 deaths registered from this disease, compared with 1 in the previous year. Of the 51 cases notified, 5 were pre-school children, 30 were in attendance at school and 16 over school age. These cases were classified clinically as follows:—

Faucial Diphtheria	{	Extremely Severe	...	4
		Severe	... ..	8
		Moderate	... ..	18
		Mild	... ..	17
		Late Case	... ..	1
Nasal Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Laryngeal Diphtheria	...	...	...	1

Of the total cases 15 had been immunised. No deaths occurred in immunised children. A mild outbreak occurred in the Hollinwood ward of the town, and during the period 24th September to 28th October, 10 cases were diagnosed as suffering from this disease. Of these, 2 had been immunised. Of the 51 cases notified, 18 emanated from this area, the remainder were in general isolated cases throughout the borough.

Supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin. This is supplied free to General Practitioners and can be obtained at the Public Health Office during the day or at the Central Police Station at other times.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The following figures indicate the number of children immunised during the year, and the percentage of immunised children in the Borough at the end of the year.

	Age 0—4 (inclusive)	Age 5—15 (inclusive)
Number of children completing the full course of immunisation	1,068	417
Total immunised at 31st December ...	5,376	12,547
Percentages of immunised children at 31st December	64.46%	93.98%

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases notified was 131 compared with 309 in 1945, of these, 85 were removed to hospital. No deaths were recorded from this disease.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 28 cases notified compared with 25 in 1945. Of these, 8 were removed to hospital. Two deaths were registered as due to this disease. Of the 28 cases notified, 19 occurred in persons 45 years of age and over.

ENTERIC FEVER.

(a) **Typhoid.** One death was registered as due to this disease. This was an inward transfer, a female aged 62 years, an inmate of a mental hospital.

(b) **Para-typhoid. B.** In February a child aged 2 years was notified from a local hospital. A subsequent case occurred which was probably a secondary infection.

Another isolated case occurred in July. The organism was isolated, submitted for bacteriophage typing and found to belong to Vi-phage type 2.

In September four cases were brought to the notice of the department. The first case (A.B.) was a girl, age 7 years, who may have contracted the infection outside the borough. Immediately the diagnosis had been confirmed all general practitioners were notified by letter and as a result (G.G.), a male age 51 years was seen in consultation and admitted to hospital for investigation. He was desperately ill and subsequently died, the diagnosis being confirmed. Full investigations were made and resulted in his son (C.G.) aged 9 years, and his daughter (J.G.) aged 13 years being admitted to hospital. These two children gave a history of mild illness without incapacity but the Widal reactions were positive in each case, though no organisms were isolated from the faeces or urine.

The organisms from case (A.B.) were found to belong to Vi-phage type 2 and from case (C.G.) to Vi-phage type 3a. This illustrates the value of bacteriophage typing and shows that case (A.B.) had no association as regards infection with the three subsequent cases.

In all, 7 cases were notified during the year and one death was registered as due to this disease.

(c) **Para-typhoid. C.** One case was notified during the year. The diagnosis was made on a positive Widal reaction (1-1250 agglutination of para-typhi C.). The course of the illness was atypical and no organisms were isolated after repeated examinations of faeces and urine.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

During the year 2 notifications were received and one death was registered as due to this disease.

POLIOMYELITIS.

One case was notified during the year. No deaths occurred from this disease.

EPIDEMIC ENCEPHALITIS (Encephalitis Lethargica).

No cases were notified but 2 deaths were registered as due to this disease, one being an inward transfer,

PNEUMONIA (ACUTE PRIMARY AND INFLUENZAL).

There were 68 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia and 13 cases of Influenzal Pneumonia notified. The deaths from all forms of Pneumonia numbered 70.

INFLUENZA.

During the year 13 deaths were attributed to this disease, compared with 4 in 1945.

MEASLES.

The number of cases notified was 1941 compared with 455 for 1945. Of these, 33 cases were removed to hospital. Two deaths were registered as due to this disease. Of the above notifications 1,920 were received during the second half of the year, due to an epidemic that started in October and increased in intensity to its peak in November and continued into January 1947. The epidemic proved to be fairly mild in character.

WHOOPING COUGH,

The number of cases notified was 260, compared with 177 in 1945. Of these, 23 were removed to hospital and 2 deaths were registered as due to this disease. Of the total notified, 23 had received the full course of protective injections and these cases were classified as follows:—

Moderate—9.

Mild—14.

WHOOPING COUGH PROTECTION.

The arrangements for the immunisation of children against Whooping Cough were continued. During the year 786 children received a full course of protective inoculations.

DYSENTERY,

During the year 14 cases were notified, (Sonne—13, Type not notified 1), 10 of the cases were removed to hospital. No deaths were recorded as due to this disease.

SMALLPOX.

During the year 104 Smallpox contacts were referred to the department for surveillance, and 520 visits were paid by medical officers of the department. It was found desirable to admit one patient to Hartshead Smallpox Hospital for observation but the diagnosis was not confirmed. This was a service case from the Troopship, "Orion."

OTHER DISEASES,

No cases of Anthrax, Malaria or Undulant Fever were brought to the notice of the department during the year.

Table showing the Number of Cases of Certain Diseases notified, and the Deaths registered from these Diseases
During the Several Months of the Year.

MONTHS	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Puerperal Pyrexia		Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		Acute Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough		Erysipelas		Acute Primary Pneumonia		Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
January ...	2	—	23	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	25	—	1	—	6	4	6	1
February ...	1	—	19	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	3	—	15	3	3	2
March ...	1	—	11	—	5	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	50	—	1	—	10	3	—	—
April ...	3	—	15	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	2	—	5	2	2	—
May ...	1	—	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	36	—	2	—	6	1	—	—
June ...	3	—	8	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	1	—	4	1	—	—
July ...	18	1	4	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
August ...	32	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	12	—	2	—	5	1	—	—
September ...	51	—	2	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	4	—	3	—	—	—
October ...	254	—	8	—	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	4	—	3	2	1	1
November ...	820	—	16	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	6	2	1	—
December ...	755	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	16	2	5	—	3	2	—	—
TOTALS	1941	2	131	—	51	3	8	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	260	2	28	2	68	21	13	4

Smallpox—None.

Epidemic Encephalitis (Encephalitis-Lethargica)—None

TABLE SHOWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1946.

Notifiable Disease.	Notifications in Age Groups								Notifications in the Various Wards of the Borough												
	Under 1.	1 and under 3.	3 and under 5.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	St. Mary's.	St. Peter's.	Werneth.	Westwood.	St. Paul's.	Coldhurst.	Hartford.	Hollinwood.	Clarksfield.	Mumps.	St. James'.	Waterhead.
Smallpox
Cholera--Plague
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)
Erysipelas
Scarlet Fever
Typhus Fever
Enteric Fever
Measles
Whooping Cough
Puerperal Pyrexia
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Poliomyelitis
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Respiratory Tuberculosis
Other forms of Tuberculosis...
Malaria
Dysentry (Sonne)
Dysentry (Type not notified)
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia
Acute Primary Pneumonia
Epidemic Encephalitis (Encephalitis Lethargica)
Acute Polio-Encephalitis
TOTALS

WESTHULME HOSPITAL.

At the beginning of the year there were 58 patients in hospital, and 472 admitted during the year, making a total of 530 cases under treatment. Of this total, 474 were discharged, 12 died, and 44 were in hospital at the end of the year. The number of cases treated, 530, compares with 771 in 1945. The daily average number of patients in hospital was 32.7, the highest on any one day being 61 and the lowest 12.

Authority	Diph.	S. Fever.	Measles.	Erys.	W. Cough.	Other.	Total.
Oldham	81	89	53	13	23	68	327
Chadderton	11	20	3	—	5	4	43
Royton	2	11	1	—	3	—	17
Crompton & Shaw	1	2	—	—	—	2	5
Limehurst	3	4	—	—	—	1	8
Failsworth	3	29	—	—	—	1	33
Saddleworth	13	15	—	1	1	2	32
Lees	2	—	—	—	1	—	3
Middleton	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Services	1	1	—	—	—	1	3
Totals	117	171	57	14	34	79	472

The 79 "Other Diseases" admissions were made up as follows:—

Chicken Pox	7	Malaria	1
Dysentery	20	Otitis Media	1
Enteritis	14	Enteric Fever	12
Influenza	1	Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	Bronchitis	1
Mumps	4	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	5
Scabies	1	Tonsillitis	6

CANCER.

The facilities for diagnosis and treatment as outlined in the reports for 1938 and 1943 were continued during the year.

The following information has been submitted by the Superintendent and Secretary of Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute.

Referring Hospital	No. of Cases referred	No. Treated by Radiation and Surgical			No. not treated: unsuitable, advanced disease, etc.	Follow-up visits by new cases during 1946.
		I.P.	O.P.	Total		
Oldham Royal Infirmary	180	54	76	130	50	331
Boundary Park General Hospital	44	12	9	21	23	58
Total	224	66	85	151	73	389

Total number of examinations made at the Oldham Clinic (including 389 attendances by 1946 cases) 1,969

Number of visits paid by Medical Officer from the Holt Radium Institute to:—

Oldham Royal Infirmary 51

Boundary Park General Hospital 12

The number of deaths attributed to cancer shows an increase of 3 compared with 1945.

The figures for the last 5 years are as follows:—

1942	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
1943	...	...	...	...	...	...	222
1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	237
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	240

The following is an analysis of the age and sex distribution of all persons who were certified as dying from cancer during the year:—

Ages	Males	Females	Total
0—15	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—
25—35	—	4	4
35—45	7	6	13
45—55	16	19	35
55—65	31	36	67
65—75	43	47	90
75—	15	16	31

Localisation of the Disease.

Buccal Cavity and Pharynx ...	{	Tongue	2
		Pharynx	3
		Gum	1
Digestive Tract	{	Oesophagus	10
		Stomach	50
		Rectum	22
		Liver and Biliary	
		Passages	4
		Pancreas	3
		Colon	38
		Intestine	—
Respiratory Organs	{	Abdominal	1
		Retroperitoneal ...	3
		Larynx	6
		Lung	21

Male Genito-Urinary	{	Bladder	4
		Prostate	4
		Scrotum	3
		Kidney	3
		External Meatus ...	1
Female Genital Organs	{	Uterus	16
		Ovary	9
		Vulva	1
Breast			23
Skin			2
Brain			3
Other and Unspecified			7

BOROUGH CORONER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

The following report has been supplied by Mr. J. L. Watson, the Borough Coroner:—

The deaths reported to the Coroner during the year 1946 were 233 (males 150, females 83). Of this total 27 were lunatics and mental defectives in institutions.

In 57 of the cases reported, the deaths were investigated by the Coroner but no inquests held.

There were 176 inquests held (120 on males and 56 on females). Of the 176 inquests, one was held with a jury.

There were 89 post mortem examinations in 13 of which no inquest was held. The expenses of the inquests amounted to £384. 15s. 6d.

The verdicts returned were:—

Suicides 16 (males 13, females 3); Accident or misadventure 73 (males 50, females 23); natural causes 80 (males 53, females 27); open verdicts 5 (males 4, females 1).

The ages of the 16 suicides were as follows:—

Under 21 years of age	None
Between 21 and 30 years of age	1
Between 30 and 40 years of age	1
Between 40 and 50 years of age... ..	3
Between 50 and 60 years of age... ..	4
60 years of age and over	7

The types of suicide included:—

Gassing	11
Cut Throat	3
Hanging	1
Run over by train... ..	1

There were no inquests on infants suffocated whilst in bed with their parents.

There was one inquest on a newly born child.

In 1945 there were 269 deaths reported, 180 inquests were held and the expenses were £507 19s. 0d.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangements as outlined in the report for 1940 continued. In October the Committee approved the holding of an additional session each month at the Orthopaedic Clinic for tuberculosis cases requiring orthopaedic supervision and treatment.

The Dispensary. Attendances at the Dispensary, compared with the two previous years, are as follows:—

	1944	1945	1946
Insured persons	2167	1980	2282
Non-insured persons	221	229	201
Children	748	743	650
	<hr/> 3136 <hr/>	<hr/> 2952 <hr/>	<hr/> 3133 <hr/>

The tuberculosis nurse paid 495 visits to the homes of tuberculosis patients.

X-Ray Work. During the year 584 films were taken compared with 650 in 1945. Of 127 loaned 81 were retained by the Department.

Pathological Examinations. During the year 593 specimens of sputum were examined. Of these 91 were positive and 502 negative.

Notifications. During the year 126 new cases were placed on the Register of Notifications (112 pulmonary, 14 non-pulmonary) compared with 147 (109 pulmonary and 38 non-pulmonary) for the previous year. The following table gives particulars of the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years together with the case rate per thousand of the population. Cases notified in other areas which later moved into the Borough have been excluded.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		All Forms	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
1936	118	.90	43	.33	161	1.23
1937	114	.89	61	.48	175	1.37
1938	132	1.05	86	.68	218	1.73
1939	113	.91	62	.50	175	1.41
1940	92	.78	49	.41	141	1.19
1941	102	.87	30	.26	132	1.13
1942	85	.74	53	.47	138	1.21
1943	115	1.02	50	.45	165	1.47
1944	103	.92	40	.35	143	1.27
1945	109	.98	38	.34	147	1.32
1946	112	.96	14	.12	126	1.08

Deaths. The number of deaths registered, 58 (52 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary) gives a rate per thousand of the population of .50 (.45 pulmonary, .05 non-pulmonary) compared with 75 deaths (63 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary) and a rate of .67 (.57 pulmonary, .10 non-pulmonary) for 1945.

The Dispensary Register. The total number of accepted cases on the Register on the 31st December 1946 was 690. Of these 230 were cases in which tubercle bacilli had been found in the sputum at some period of the illness.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
No. on Register on 31/12/45	249	178	427	125	116	241	374	294	668
Cases previously removed, returning during 1946	5	2	7	2	...	2	7	2	9
New cases placed on Register during 1946 (Trans. from Non-Pulm.)	78 1	42 ...	120 1	10 ...	5 ...	15 ...	88 1	47 ...	135 1
Cases removed during 1946 (Trans. to pulmonary)	51 ...	35 ...	86 ...	18 1	18 ...	36 1	69 1	53 ...	122 1
No. on Register on 31/12/4	282	187	469	118	103	221	400	290	690

During the year 122 patients were removed for the following reasons:

- | | | |
|--|----|-------------------------------|
| 1. Recovery | 42 | or 34.4% of total removals. |
| 2. Removal out | 17 | } or 18.0% of total removals. |
| 3. Not desiring further treatment | — | |
| 4. Lost sight of | 2 | |
| 5. Diagnosis not confirmed... .. | 3 | } or 47.6% of total removals. |
| 6. Death | 58 | |

Of the 42 recovered cases 14 were pulmonary—11 or 78.6% Tb. Minus, 2 or 14.3% Tb. Plus 1 and 1 or 7.1% Tb. Plus 11.

Of the 58 deaths 53 were pulmonary cases, classified as follows:—

Tb. Minus, 11 or 20.8%
 Tb. Plus 1, 4 or 7.5%
 Tb. Plus 2, 30 or 56.6%
 Tb. Plus 3, 8 or 15.1%

Cases not formally notified. These numbered 16, 14 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. Of these 10 were live transfers from other areas, 1 was notified posthumously and 5 came to notice through the local Registrar's returns.

The number of non-notified deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis was 5, equal to 9.8% of the deaths from this form of the disease.

One non-pulmonary death, not notified during life, occurred, being 20% of the total of such deaths.

The percentage of non-notified deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 10·7.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases. During 1946, 121 new cases were placed on the Dispensary Register and were classified as follows:—

T.B. Minus (Sputum negative or absent) ...	57
T.B. Plus 1 (Early cases, sputum positive) ...	10
T.B. Plus 11 (Intermediate cases, sputum positive)	35
T.B. Plus 111 (Advanced cases, sputum positive)	19

In addition 5 other cases came to notice but were not placed on the Register.

Deaths. During the year 52 patients, compared with 63 in the previous year, died from pulmonary tuberculosis. This represents a death rate of ·45 per thousand of the population.

In addition 5 pulmonary cases died from causes other than tuberculosis.

Of these 52 deaths, 15 or 28·8% had been notified more than 5 years. A further 5, or 9·6% had been notified 3 to 5 years, whilst 14 or 27·0% died 1 to 3 years after notification. The remaining 18 deaths (34·6% of total) occurred within 1 year of coming to notice and included 4 which escaped statutory notification, coming to notice through the Local Registrar's Returns.

The following table shows the length of time between notification and death of the remaining 14:—

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	1
1 to 4 weeks ...	...	...	...	...	5
1 to 2 months	...	...	...	...	2
2 to 3 months	...	...	...	...	1
3 to 6 months	...	...	...	...	2
6 to 9 months	...	...	...	...	3
9 to 12 months	...	...	...	...	—

Thus of the 52 patients dying during the year 37 or 71·1% died within 5 years of coming to notice.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases. The number of new cases placed on the Dispensary Register during the year was 15. One other case came to notice. These compare with 36 and 4 for 1945.

The localisation of the disease, compared with 1945 and 1944, was as follows:

	1944	1945	1946
Bones and Joints	11	7	7
Abdomen	9	12	1
Meninges	3	4	2
Skin	1	1	—
Peripheral Glands	13	10	3
Other Organs	4	6	2
	—	—	—
Totals ...	41	40	15
	—	—	—

Deaths. During the year there were 6 deaths compared with 12 in 1945. This represents a death rate of .05 per thousand of the population.

Of these, 2 died in our own hospitals, 1 in the Oldham Royal Infirmary, 1 in the Manchester Children's Hospital, and 2 at home, the localisation of the disease being as follows:—

Meninges 2, Spine 2, Generalised 1, Peritoneum 1.

The following is a summary of the new cases and deaths during the year :—

					New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
5 to 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
10 to 15	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
15 to 20	...	...	...	...	6	5	1	1	...	...	1	1
20 to 25	...	...	...	...	19	10	1	...	5	2	...	...
25 to 35	...	...	...	...	17	15	2	...	7	7	...	...
35 to 45	...	...	...	...	11	4	1	1	6	2	...	1
45 to 55	...	...	...	...	12	2	1	...	3	...	...	...
55 to 65	...	...	...	...	14	4	...	...	9	2	1	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	9	...	1	...
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	84	42	11	5	39	13	4	2
					1946		126		16		52	
					1945		111		40		63	
					1944		110		41		70	
					1943		113		51		62	

The following list gives a summary of the principal occupations of new cases and deaths:—

	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Cotton Operatives	25	2	7	—
Household duties	14	2	9	1
Textile Machinery Workers, Fitters, Machinists	13	—	6	—
Labourers	13	2	6	1
Clerks	13	—	1	—
Brass and Sheet Metal Workers	7	—	1	—
Iron Workers	5	—	3	—
Shop Assistants	4	—	1	—
No Occupation	4	—	—	1
Transport Workers	3	—	1	—
School Children	2	5	—	—
Children under school age ...	—	2	—	1
Wood workers	1	—	2	—
Hair Dresser	—	—	—	1
Armature Winder	—	1	—	1
Other Occupations	22	2	15	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	126	16	52	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STRINESDALE SANATORIUM.

During the year 110 patients were admitted.

Artificial Pneumothorax. At the commencement of the year 9 patients were undergoing this form of treatment as inpatients whilst 25 were attending as outpatients. A further 21 patients were induced during 1946 and treatment was discontinued in 14 cases. The number of refills given totalled 906.

In a number of outpatient cases refills are given at Westhulme Hospital; 19 such cases attended during the year, 227 refills being given.

Sanocrysin. Sanocrysin has been given to 12 patients during the year including 3 patients who commenced a course in the previous year. In 4 cases treatment had to be discontinued before a complete course had been given. A total of 137 injections were given during the year.

Other Treatment. 11 pleural aspirations were performed during the year and the following examinations carried out:—

Blood Sedimentation 551; Urine 1815; Sputa 549; X-ray 164.

Dental Treatment. The arrangements for treatment remain unaltered and the following is a summary of the work carried out.

New cases.	Attendances for treatment	Dental Extractions	Fillings	Other Operations	Dentures Provided
77	266	203	25	183	28

The following figures give some further indication of the work of the Sanatorium.

Admissions.	1944	1945	1946
A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis	117	98	105
B. Observation Cases	14	6	5

Deaths.	1944	1945	1946
A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis	45	28	19
B. Observation Cases, Non-T.B.	2	1	—

Discharges.	1944	1945	1946
Transfers to Boundary Park General Hospital	2	1	—
Transfers to Oldham Royal Infirmary	1	—	—
Transfers to Wrightington Hospital	1	—	—
Transfers to Papworth Village Settlement	1	1	—
Transfers to Strinesdale Open Air School	1	2	—
Transfers to Westwood Park Institution	—	1	—
Transfers to Manchester Royal Infirmary	—	1	2
Transfers to Preston Hall Settlement	—	1	—
Transfers to Oswestry	—	1	—
Discharged home	82	70	89

Condition of Patients on Discharge.	1944	1945	1946
Observation Cases, Non-T.B.	6	2	5
Disease Quiescent	7	7	21
Improved	55	55	56
No material improvement	14	14	9

OTHER HOSPITALS.

The policy of sending suitable cases to sanatoria owned by other authorities has been continued and again proved of considerable help in reducing the pressure on our own accommodation at Strinesdale Sanatorium. During the year 16 pulmonary cases were admitted to the undermentioned sanatoria:—

The Liverpool Sanatorium, Frodsham	13
Royal National Sanatorium, Ventnor	1
Barrowmore Hall Sanatorium, Chester	1
Abergele Sanatorium	1

Fifteen cases of bones and joints disease were admitted to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, and 1 to the Wrightington Hospital. Of the 14 patients admitted to Oswestry, 7 had previously received treatment there and were re-admitted for review.

BOUNDARY PARK GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The following figures relate to the work of the Hospital with regard to Oldham Tuberculosis patients:—

					1944	1945	1946
Admissions.							
A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis:							
	Pulmonary	...	...	...	25	7	11
	Non-Pulmonary			...	8	7	3
B. Observation Cases:							
	Pulmonary	...	...	...	12	11	19
	Non-Pulmonary			...	4	10	4
Deaths.							
A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis					11	8	5
B. Observation Cases, Non-T.B.					1	—	—
Discharges.							
Transfers to other							
Institutions.	Pulmonary	...	...	...	19	8	11
	Non-Pulmonary			...	2	5	1
Discharged home	...	...	...	...	19	12	20

Maintenance Allowances and Grants.

The arrangements for the granting of financial and other assistance under Memo. 266/T and the Authority's Local Scheme remain as described in the report for 1942.

In July, the Ministry of Health issued Circular 114/46 instructing local authorities to deduct from the dependent children's allowances payable under Memorandum 266/T the amount of any payments received under the Family Allowances Act. This meant that tuberculous persons with dependent children in receipt of maintenance allowances under the Government Scheme would not derive any benefit from the introduction of Family Allowances and as the Health Committee had always felt that the scale of dependents' allowances was inadequate a strong protest was conveyed to the Ministry with regard to the deduction of Family Allowances. The Committee also decided to disregard Family Allowances in considering applications for maintenance allowances under the local scheme.

The revised scale of dependents' allowances introduced by the Ministry in December was applied to the local scheme, since when Family Allowances have been taken into account in assessing the needs of applicants for assistance under this scheme.

The following summaries give particulars of the number of applicants and applications dealt with and amounts expended during the year.

1. Memorandum 266/T.

Period 3.1.46 to 1.1.47.

		Amounts expended.
Total number of applicants—1946.	53	
No. carried forward from 1945.	33	
Total number of applications—1946	111	£3,406 2. 5.

Maintenance Allowances.

Number of applicants—1946. ...	52	
Number carried forward from 1945.	32	
Number of applications—1946. ...	68	£3,358 13. 10.

Discretionary Allowances.

Number of applicants—1946. ...	5	
Number carried forward from 1945	2	
in Maintenance Allowances ...	5	
Number of applications—1946	5	£24 19. 6.

Special Payments

Number of applicants—1946 ...	5	
Number carried forward from 1945.	1	
in Maintenance Allowances ...	1	
In Discretionary Allowances ...	—	
Others	3	
Number of applications—1946. ...	5	£22 9. 1.

2. Local Scheme.

Period 4.1.46 to 2.1.47.

Total number of applicants—1946	34	
No. carried forward from 1945 ...	47	
Total number of applications—1946	92	£3,281 19. 9.

Maintenance Allowances.

Number of applicants—1946 ...	31	
Number carried forward from 1945	47	
Number of applications—1946 ...	37	£3,237 18. 4.

Discretionary Allowances.

Number of applicants—1946 ...	2	
Number carried forward from 1945	2	
in Maintenance allowances ...	2	
Number of applications—1946 ...	2	£22 2. 1.

Special Payments.

Number of applicants—1946 ...	3	
Number carried forward from 1945	2	
in Maintenance allowances ...	1	
in Discretionary allowances ...	1	
Others	1	
Number of applications—1946 ...	3	£21 19. 4.

In addition to the above, special payments covering the provision of an appliance was made to an applicant, amounting to £2 5. 0.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Part I.—Summary of Notifications during the period from 1st January, 1946, to the 31st December, 1946, in the area of the County Borough of Oldham.

Age Periods.	Formal Notifications											
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis											
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 & upwards	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males	2	6	17	16	10	10	10	1	72
Females	1	5	8	9	5	2	3	2	35
Non-Pulmonary Males	...	1	1	...	1	...	4	...	1	...	...	8
Females	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
TOTALS	...	1	2	5	13	25	29	16	13	13	3	120
												133

Part II.—Supplemental Return.
New Cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by Formal Notification.

Age Periods.	No. of Cases											
	0—1	1—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65 and up.	Total
Pulmonary, Males	1	...	2	1	2	2	8
Females	2	3	...	...	1	...	6
Non-Pulmonary Males	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Females
TOTALS	...	1	...	...	...	3	3	2	1	3	3	16

Source of Information.	No. of Cases	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulm'y
Death Returns—from local Registrars	...	...
transferable deaths from Registrar General	4	1
Posthumous Notifications	...	...
"Transfers" from other areas (other than transferable deaths)	1	...
Other Sources, if any (specify)	9	1

TOTALS	14	2

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS
Return relating to the work of the Dispensary during the year ending 31 December, 1946.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				Grand Total
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A.—(1) Number of definite cases on the Dispensary Register at the beginning of the year ...	239	167	10	11	49	60	76	56	288	227	86	67	668
(2) Transfers from other Authorities during the year ...	4	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	6	1	—	11
(3) Lost sight of cases returned during the year ...	5	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	6	2	1	—	9
B.—Number of new cases diagnosed as tuberculous during the year :—													
(1) Class T.B. minus ...	33	18	1	1	—	—	—	—	33	18	1	1	53
(2) Class T.B. plus ...	40	17	1	—	—	—	—	—	40	17	1	—	58
(3) Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	6	2	3	3	6	2	3	3	14
C.—Number of cases included in A. & B. written off the Dispensary Register during the year as :—													
(1) Recovered ...	5	11	—	—	2	5	9	10	7	16	9	10	42
(2) Dead (all causes) ...	39	14	—	—	3	1	1	—	42	15	1	—	58
(3) Removed to other areas ...	5	9	—	1	—	1	1	—	5	10	1	1	17
(4) For other reasons ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	3	1	2	—	6
D.—Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the end of the year ...	270	176	12	11	50	54	68	49	320	230	80	60	690

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.

During the early part of the year arrangements were completed with the Lancashire County Council for a mass radiography survey to be conducted chiefly amongst factory workers in the borough. The County Council have been operating a Unit since October, 1943, and this together with the operating team was installed in Westlands, the old Civil Defence Training Centre, in Grange Avenue, Oldham.

The survey began on February 4th and continued till June 17th by which time over 20,000 persons had been x-rayed. Of these 14,516 were resident in Oldham, the remainder belonging to the Lancashire County or other surrounding areas.

The great majority of those examined were workers in the larger mills and factories in the town, though facilities were offered to the general public and 1,600 school children between the ages of 10 and 14 were included. As the procedure is voluntary much publicity was necessary prior to the survey in order to secure a high acceptance rate and considerable organisation was required to keep a steady flow of examinees from factory to Unit and back. The co-operation of the Passenger Transport Department in the use of double decker buses for this purpose was much appreciated and so successful were the efforts of all concerned that the Unit maintained a higher average number of persons examined per week whilst in Oldham than it has ever attained before or since.

The Unit consists of a powerful x-ray set specially designed for the purpose, together with the necessary apparatus to enable large numbers of miniature x-ray pictures to be taken on a continuous roll of 35 mm photographic film. A small proportion of persons examined show some abnormality on the miniature film and these are then recalled for the taking of a full size x-ray together with clinical investigation by the Medical Officer of the Unit. After this, where possible, a diagnosis is made and the cases are referred to their own doctor or elsewhere for appropriate treatment if required.

The primary object of the survey was to detect unsuspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis but the x-ray reveals other conditions of a non-tuberculous nature.

The total number of non-tuberculous conditions found was 433 but the majority of these were not of a serious nature and required no treatment. 124 of these cases were either under treatment already or were considered to be of sufficient importance to warrant further investigation:

In the remainder no action was required. The details are as follows:—

		Number under treatment or referred for investigation
Heart defects	52	19
Bronchitis and bronchiectasis ...	58	32
Fibrosis of lungs	109	29
Abnormalities of thorax and lungs	106	10
Tumours	2	1
Dust disease	6	4
Pleural thickening	64	13
Miscellaneous	36	16
	<hr/> 433	<hr/> 124

The incidence of bronchitis and bronchiectasis is not unduly high considering the climatic and occupational factors operating in this district. The incidence is 3.3 per 1,000 whilst the incidence amongst 34,000 Middlesex factory workers in 1944 was 3.9 per 1,000. The incidence of those requiring treatment or investigation in a Lancashire County survey of 74,000 people was 1.4 per 1,000 compared with 2.2 per 1,000 in the Oldham survey.

The figure for dust disease is not high but this does not include cases of byssinosis (cardroom workers asthma) since this disease does not show characteristic x-ray changes.

As regards tuberculosis the following was the result of the survey:

Total number of persons x-rayed	14,516
Active pulmonary tuberculosis	30
Inactive or healed pulmonary tuberculosis	416

Inactive cases are further sub-divided:—

Previously known cases	11
Inactive or healed cases requiring no further action	314
Inactive cases requiring further observation	91
Total	<hr/> 416

149 cases were referred to the Dispensary for investigation and diagnosis of which 5 failed to attend.

Inactive or healed cases requiring no further action.

Out of 14,516 persons x-rayed 446 or just over 3% showed evidence of tuberculous infection of the lungs at some time, but of these roughly 75% were old healed or inactive infections requiring no further action. This does not imply that all these people had been ill at some time—the vast majority would be unaware of the infection which would either be too small to produce symptoms recognizable as such or was overcome

without difficulty by a high degree of resistance. In either case it demonstrates that pulmonary tuberculosis is curable and that only an unfortunate minority whose resistance is poor or who are exposed to heavy infection, actually develop the disease.

This group do not constitute any problem as they can be expected to remain well under ordinary conditions and by virtue of the infection they will have built up a considerable degree of resistance to tuberculosis.

Inactive cases requiring further observation.

The dividing line between activity and quiescence is in many cases a fine one. The disease has a tendency to smoulder for long periods with few outward signs. Prolonged observation of such cases is therefore desirable before they can be considered to be free from any likelihood of relapse.

This group consists of borderline cases where a decision had to be made before adequate observation had been carried out.

Rather than label them tuberculous with the social consequences that that involves it was considered preferable to regard them as inactive and keep them under further observation.

As a result there is a possibility that under favourable conditions a small proportion of these cases may become active.

The Lancashire County Council have found in their earlier surveys that this happens to be approximately one fifth of the cases in this group. This proportion would be rather high for this survey as some of these cases have already been watched for 18 months during which period a few cases have already been weeded out.

Active Cases.

The total of 30 cases were distributed as follows:—

	10—15		15—24		25—34		35—44		45—54		55 plus		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
TB Minus	—	1	1	7	3	—	1	—	2	2	1	—	8	10
TB Plus	1	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	3	—	2	—	10	2
	1	1	2	8	4	—	3	1	5	2	3	—	18	12

The incidence of active previously unknown pulmonary tuberculosis works out at just over 2 cases per 1,000 in the group surveyed. This is remarkably low for an urban area compared with the findings of other surveys. The Lancashire County Council in their first eight surveys, comprising 74,000 workers, found an incidence of 3·2 per 1,000 and in Middlesex the rate for those requiring treatment was 3·0 per 1,000.

As in most other surveys, however, the findings show that the greatest incidence is amongst the young adult and over 45 groups.

In the former, young women predominate and the majority of these were early cases with negative sputum and few or no symptoms. The prospects of recovery in this group are therefore correspondingly good and

it is safe to assume that the majority of these cases would not have come to light in the ordinary way until the condition was much further advanced.

In the over 45 group, men predominate, though this may be partly due to the small number of women included in these age groups. The majority were sputum positive cases. These cases constitute a danger to the public as well as themselves and though the majority may not be curable, once the risk is known precautions against spread of infection can be taken and the risk minimised. It is the unrecognised positive case that is most dangerous. Many of these cases have symptoms sometimes for years, but these have been variously ascribed to bronchitis, smoking, catarrh, etc. and only an x-ray can reveal the true state of affairs.

The majority of these cases were admitted to sanatorium for treatment as follows:—

			Males	Females
Liverpool Sanatorium	...	...	1	—
Abergele Sanatorium	...	...	1	—
Strinesdale Sanatorium	...	...	16	10

All except one have been discharged from sanatorium but one case has since relapsed and been re-admitted. One case died subsequent to discharge. Two cases were considered non-tuberculous after observation in sanatorium.

3 cases required Artificial Pneumothorax treatment.

1 case required phrenic operation.

1 case required thoracoplasty.

Of the minus cases 72% are now back at work compared with 50% of the positive cases.

It is too early at present to forecast the end results of treatment but to date this appears favourable in the majority of early cases.

Conclusions.

Though the total incidence of demonstrable pulmonary tuberculosis corresponds to that found in other areas, the number of active cases found in the survey was low. These cases must be considered in conjunction with the inactive group, but allowing for the fact that a proportion of this group may eventually find their way on to the Dispensary Register it seems safe to assume that the prevalence of unsuspected tuberculosis in this area is no higher than in similar urban communities.

But even a low incidence in a population of 120,000 means that a considerable number of unsuspected cases remain in our midst, more than half of which are probably infective.

The best method of detection for these cases is mass radiography, but to be effective it must be repeated at regular intervals since a clear x-ray today gives no guarantee of immunity for the future. The young adult age groups therefore should ideally be re-x-rayed every 12 months; for the remainder the interval could be longer.

To be effective in lowering the incidence of tuberculosis it should also embrace the majority of the population. Up till now surveys have been chiefly confined to people who are fit enough to be at work and these

are not the groups amongst whom one would expect to find the highest case rate. There is also reason to believe that a higher rate would be found amongst those who refuse the examination.

It is therefore to be hoped that it will be possible to repeat the survey before long. In this connection, however, it must be remembered that the supply of Units and trained staff to operate them at present falls far short of the demand and Oldham must therefore be considered fortunate to have secured an early turn with the available apparatus.

A review of the cost of the survey is interesting. It shows the total cost was £3,140, the average cost per person examined being 3s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Of this sum £592, representing their proportion of the total cost in relation to the number of County persons examined, was met by the County Authority, leaving a net cost to the Borough of £2,548. Apart from the cost of the services of the Unit, which amounted to £2,155, the main items of expenditure were as follows:—

Alterations to Westlands	...	...	...	£176
Rents, rates and taxes	...	...	...	£122
Wages of caretaker and cleaners	...	...	...	£120
Heating and lighting	...	...	...	£111
Printing, stationery, advertisements	...	...	...	£71
Transport	...	...	...	£335

VACCINATION.

During the year 1946, the Vaccination Officer issued 1,863 Q notices requesting parents' compliance with the Acts. There were no defaulters and it was therefore unnecessary to issue any K forms.

The Vaccination Officer paid 161 home visits and notified the Public Vaccinators on H forms of 618 cases requiring vaccination.

Under the Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917, 31 vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by the medical officers of the Public Health Department.

The following table gives details of the work of the Public Vaccinators during the year:—

District	No. of successful Primary Vaccinations of Persons			No. of successful re-vaccinations
	Under 1 year of age	One year and upwards	Total	
1	—	—	—	—
2	71	24	95	—
3	46	3	49	3
4	27	13	40	4
5	63	18	81	5
6	105	27	132	3
Totals ...	312	85	397	15

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There was no material change in the arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases, and the financial arrangements in connection with the scheme were still under discussion with the Governors of the Oldham Royal Infirmary during the early months of the year. From the 1st June revised financial arrangements and improvements in the Council's scheme were put into operation. Two additional weekly clinics, one Wednesday morning and another Monday afternoon, which had been held unofficially from the 3rd June, 1945, and the 14th May, 1945, respectively, were approved and at the end of the year the under-mentioned weekly clinics were being held at the Oldham Royal Infirmary:—

Male Clinics.	Monday	4. 0 p.m.	Syphilis.
	Tuesday	7. 0 p.m.	Syphilis.
	Wednesday	7. 0 p.m.	G.C.
Female Clinics.	Monday	7. 0 p.m.	Syphilis and G.C.
	Wednesday	11.30 a.m.	Syphilis and G.C.

With the advent of sulphonamide drugs and penicillin and the reduced period of treatment of syphilis from years or months to weeks; and of gonorrhoea from months to weeks and even days, the treatment of these diseases has been revolutionised. During 1946, 406 cases of venereal diseases were treated with penicillin as compared with 130 in 1945. The attendance of these patients for penicillin injections accounts for the large increase in clinic attendances, i.e. 15,335 as compared with 10,931 in 1945.

Dr. G. L. M. McElligott of the Ministry of Health visited the Centre in October. This visit was followed by a recommendation from the Ministry of Health that consideration be given to the provision of alternative accommodation at the Boundary Park General Hospital and the re-organisation of the scheme and of the appointment of an experienced Medical Officer whose prime interest was in connection with Venereal Diseases. This recommendation was subsequently accepted by the General Hospital Sub-Committee.

In December, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor submitted plans for the adaptation of the ground floor of the Old Children's Block at the Boundary Park General Hospital for use as a Venereal Diseases Clinic. These plans were approved and forwarded to the Ministry of Health for criticism and recommendations.

Regulation 33B. During the year Form 1 was received in respect of 6 females resident in the borough. Visits were undertaken by the Superintendent Health Visitor. Of the persons named, 1 was traced, 1 had gone abroad, and in 4 cases the address on the form was insufficient to identify the suspect. In no case was a second Form 1 received.

Supplies of Arsenobenzene Compounds. Three doctors on the list availed themselves of this free supply, and 49 doses of various strengths of these compounds were supplied.

Diagnosis and Treatment. The returns overleaf relate to all persons who were treated at the Treatment Centre, together with details of the pathological work involved during 1946. In addition to the numbers given on this return the following figures indicate the number of Oldham residents making their first attendance at clinics in other areas.

Syphilis 4. Soft Chancre 1. Gonorrhoea 7. Non V.D. 6.

RETURN relating to all persons who were treated at the

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Non-venereal or undiag'd conditions		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Tot.
1. Number of cases on 1st January under treatment or observation	172	184	...	...	63	45	8	16	243	245	488
2. Number of cases removed from the register during any previous year which returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection	2	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	2	6
3. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of cases under Item 4) suffering from :—											
Syphilis, primary	69	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	11	80
" secondary	12	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	20	32
" latent in 1st year of infection*	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
" all later stages	24	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	38	62
" congenital	3	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	14
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea, 1st year of infection ...	...	...	...	...	170	67	...	...	170	67	237
" later ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
Non-venereal conditions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	145	92	145	92	237
Conditions remaining undiagnosed at 31st December ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	17	19	17	36
4. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report known to have received treatment for the same infection, or to have been under observation, at other Centres or Service Hospitals, or by General Practitioners approved under Ministry of Health Circular 2226	(46)	...	...	...	(24)	...	(12)	...	(82)	...	(82)
	8	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	9	5	14
TOTALS OF ITEMS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 ...	336	282	...	...	262	113	184	125	782	520	1302
5. Number of cases discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal	6	7	...	...	112	50	164	107	282	164	446
6(a). Number of cases which ceased to attend before completion of treatment and were, on first attendance, suffering from :—											
Syphilis, primary	14	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	9	23
" secondary	2	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	13	15
" latent in 1st year of infection*	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
" all later stages	9	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	20	29
" congenital	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea, 1st year of infection ...	...	...	...	...	33	28	...	...	33	28	61
" later ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6(b). Number of cases under treatment or observation which died :—											
From the disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From treatment ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
From other causes ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
7. Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment but before final tests of cure	10	9	...	...	22	8	...	...	32	17	49
8. Number of cases transferred to other Centres or to institutions, or to care of private practitioners	18	10	...	...	10	4	1	1	29	15	44
9. Number of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December...	274	200	...	...	85	23	19	17	378	240	618
TOTALS OF ITEMS 5, 6, 7, 8 AND 9 ...	336	282	...	...	262	113	184	125	782	520	1302
10. Number of cases in the following stages of Syphilis included in Item 6 which failed to complete one course of treatment of either penicillin or arsenic and bismuth :—											
Syphilis, primary	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
" secondary	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
" latent in 1st year of infection only ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" all later stages	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
" congenital	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

* "Syphilis, latent in 1st year of infection," applies to cases presenting no clinical sign of syphilis but discovered (by blood test, etc.) to have contracted this disease within the preceding 12 months.
The figures in brackets refer to Service Cases.

Treatment Centre during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Non-venereal or undiag'd conditions		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Tot.
11. Number of attendances :—											
(a) for individual attention of the medical officer(s)	5315	4243	...	...	1622	642	670	438	7607	5323	12930
(b) for intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressing, and Penicillin injections given daily ...	1174	795	...	...	256	173	2	5	1432	973	2405
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	6489	5038	...	...	1878	815	672	443	9039	6296	15335
12. In-patients :—											
(a) Total number of persons admitted for treatment during the year	11	12	...	...	1	3	...	...	12	15	27
(b) Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of treatment given ...	142	236	...	...	4	25	...	...	146	261	407
13. Number of cases treated with penicillin	95	76	...	...	168	67	Other Dis.				
							M.	F.			
							2	5	265	148	413
14. Number of cases of congenital syphilis in Item 3 above classified according to age periods	Under 1 yr.		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 years and over		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	...	3	...	...	...	1	3	7	3	11	
15. Pathological Work :—	Microscopical		Cultural for Gonorrhoea	Serum		Cerebro-spinal fluid	Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease				
	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhoea		for Syphilis	for Gonorrhoea						
(a) Number of specimens examined at, and by the medical officer of, the Treatment Centre ...	136	2357	2	—	—	8	—				
(b) Number of specimens from patients attending at the Treatment Centre sent for examination to an approved laboratory (if available)	—	—	—	1907 (wrs) 1671 (Kahn)	(Gift) 294	8	—				

Statement showing the services rendered at the Treatment Centre during the year, classified according to the areas in which the patients resided.

Name of County or County Borough (or Country in the case of persons residing elsewhere than in England and Wales) to be inserted in these headings.	Oldham	Lancashire	Yorkshire	Rochdale	Cheshire	Blackpool	Manchester	Total
A. Number of cases from each area included under the following headings in Item 3 :—								
Syphilis	120	65	12	2	...	1	...	200
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea	140	75	15	3	3	1	2	239
Non-venereal and undiagnosed conditions	145	99	23	4	2	...	...	273
TOTAL	405	239	50	9	5	2	2	712
B. Total number of attendances of all patients residing in each area	9429	4826	724	267	43	21	25	15335

THE WAR PERIOD.

September 1939—May 1945.

The Public Health Department.

From the outbreak of hostilities the Health Department and the hospitals under the control of the Health Committee had a heavy burden of responsibility which was carried out with high efficiency by all concerned. Not only were additional war-time duties performed, but the ordinary responsibilities to the civil population were maintained and even increased. No serious epidemic or outbreak of disease occurred and praise must be given to the Ministry of Health for the arrangements made through local authorities and their officers.

The Health Department with reduced staff undertook additional duties, which included the provision of War-time Nurseries, Reception of Evacuees, Billeting, Repair of War Damage. In spite of the Incline Road Branch Centre having been demolished and the Hope Centre being badly damaged by enemy action, our Welfare Centres continued with practically no interruptions. They proved of the greatest value and became increasingly popular with the mothers of the town. The Domiciliary Midwifery Service functioned throughout under conditions which were aggravated by the blackout and the imminence of air attacks. These years have seen many improvements in our service to the public including the following:—Maintenance Allowances for patients suffering from Tuberculosis; provision of insulin and liver extract to patients requiring these; and a Home Help and Domestic Help Scheme.

Members of the staff played their full share in the services which are described but in addition other responsibilities were undertaken. The medical and nursing staffs had duties in connection with the first aid posts, the reception of evacuees and rest centres. During the years of stress the medical officers also attended regularly on rota duty at the Report and Control Centre and received valuable help from the senior female clerks who, under the able direction of Miss M. Royle undertook special telephone and clerical duties for the Medical Officer of Health. Fire watching had also to be undertaken, no attractive task in our historic and decrepit health office!!! During the war years, many Corporation officials and their staffs carried heavy responsibilities in addition to their recognised duties. They received no extra reward but had any service failed, a public outcry would soon have been raised. The public of Oldham and the adjacent districts who received many benefits indirectly were well served. The staff of the Public Health Department took their full share in the great national effort and I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation of the services they rendered.

The Hospital Service.

At the outbreak of hostilities, Westhulme Hospital treated nearly 400 patients from Manchester. In 1940, the old Sanatorium Pavilion was demolished by enemy action and the hospital was evacuated immediately. A new Cubicle Block was built and other improvements effected. The reputation of the hospital is now exceedingly high and a most efficient service is provided.

Throughout the war years, Strinesdale Sanatorium with difficulties of staff provided accommodation for patients suffering from tuberculosis. The transfer of the chronic cases to Strinesdale created new difficulties for the staff and a problem for the Committee.

The Boundary Park General Hospital has indeed played a major part during the war years. Under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, the hospital was ready at all times to receive air raid casualties and military cases. In the early days of the war beds had to be provided for casualties, by patients being sent home or transferred to the Westwood Park Institution. In 1940, the New Maternity Unit was opened and this has provided a most efficient service for the inhabitants of this town and adjacent areas. Many improvements have been effected and the buildings have been very efficiently maintained. The work of the hospital increased beyond all proportion as the following figures denote:—

1938.

Admissions	...	...	...	...	...	5,331
No. of babies born	...	...	...	...	...	991
No. of surgical operations	...	...	...	...	...	948

1944.

Admissions	...	...	...	...	...	8,993
No. of babies born	...	...	...	...	...	2,560
No. of surgical operations	...	...	...	...	...	2,010

These figures reflect the confidence of the public in the hospital and in the work of Mr. A. H. Barber, performed since he became Acting Medical Superintendent in November, 1940.

At all our hospitals, but especially at the Boundary Park General Hospital where pressure of work was greatest, the Matrons had serious staffing problems and the nursing and portering staffs have all had to undertake increased duties. Our hospitals could not have functioned had it not been for the loyal and devoted work of these officers and servants.

The Oldham Royal Infirmary, played an important part during the war years. It had responsibilities in connection with Civil Defence similar to our own hospital, and on the occasion of the air attacks on Oldham the majority of patients were received into the Infirmary. Through the efforts of the Infirmary in the early days of the war and in co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health, the Oldham Blood Transfusion Service was established. This service has now a vital share in the treatment of our hospital patients. The year 1944 saw the establishment of a Joint Pathological Service which provides a most efficient and economical service. During these years the Governors continued to improve their hospital service. Visiting Consultants have been appointed and the Committee was especially pleased when our own Surgeon, Mr. A. H. Barber, was appointed to the Visiting Staff. The progressive outlook of the Governors is to be highly commended. We must express our very warm appreciation of the service the Infirmary has rendered to the public and of the co-operation received from the Governors. We look forward to the establishment of further joint services for the inhabitants of this town and district.

War-Time Nurseries.

Prior to the war there was only one Day Nursery in Oldham, the Oldham Day Nursery in Overens Street, Lees Road, administered by a Voluntary Committee. It was not until the second year of the war that the employment of married women began to assume considerable proportions and the necessity for the adequate care and supervision of the children of these mothers was recognised by the Government. Local authorities were asked to open war-time nurseries and in Oldham no time was lost in making such provision.

The first war-time nursery opened was "Fernholme" in July, 1941. This was so successful and the demand for accommodation so great that seven further nurseries were provided and at the request of the Voluntary Committee, the Overens Street Nursery was also taken over. The following summarises the accommodation provided during the war:—

Nursery	Places						Opened
Derker	40	July, 1942.
Fernholme	65	July, 1941.
Horsedge	50	July, 1943.
Greenacres	40	May, 1942.
Limeside	40	July, 1942.
Overens Street	37	July, 1942.
Park House	54	Sept., 1942.
Thornycroft	46	July, 1942.
Westhill	45	Jan. 1942.

At Fernholme, Park House, and Thornycroft residential accommodation was available for the children of mothers on night shifts or working excessive hours.

In addition to the above accommodation the Education Committee opened four war-time nursery classes with extended hours, namely:—

Nursery Class	Places						Opened
Richmond Street	30	August, 1942.
St. Peter's	30	Sept., 1942.
Watersheddings	30	Nov., 1942.
Coldhurst Hall	30	Nov., 1942.

In March, 1946, the financial arrangements which had operated during the war were terminated and local authorities had to decide which nurseries should be closed and which continued. After consideration of all the factors involved, the Committee transferred the Limeside, Derker and Greenacres nurseries to the Education Committee to be used as Nursery Classes and the Thornycroft Nursery was closed. The remaining nurseries, Fernholme, Horsedge, Overens Street, Park House, and Westhill were retained. With the exception of Westhill, these were training nurseries recognised by the National Society of Children's Nurseries for the training of nursery students, and the number of successful nursery students was very creditable.

The Sanitary Department.

The following report has been prepared by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. V. Cass.

It fell to the lot of the Sanitary Department to undertake numerous and varied duties in connection with the War Effort both prior to the outbreak of hostilities and during the war period, and the following is a brief summary of the main items of work undertaken.

A considerable amount of preparatory work in connection with equipping and establishing First Aid Posts, Emergency Hospital Scheme arrangements, Emergency Mortuaries, Ambulance Depots and Decontamination Centres, was undertaken by Mr. J. Brook, Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, who had attended a Home Office Anti-gas School and obtained an Instructor's Certificate.

With the commencement of hostilities, the routine work of the department was severely curtailed to enable the emergency measures to be put into operation without delay. This necessitated long and extensive hours of duty for all the staff of the department.

The Sanitary Inspectors were appointed Billeting Officers and worked in close co-operation with the Public Assistance Department in the arrangements for the billeting of evacuees transferred to Oldham in 1940 from the Channel Islands. They also gave assistance to the Military Authorities at that time in billeting large numbers of military personnel arriving in the town. In conjunction with the Wardens Service, the Sanitary Inspectors carried out a survey of accommodation in the town for the billeting of local homeless in case of air attack and were instrumental in encouraging local people to make alternative arrangements for billeting, should they be bombed out. This latter arrangement proved very useful after an air raid incident when it became necessary to provide accommodation for homeless people. One of the most difficult problems of billeting was the obtaining of billets for mothers and young children.

Another task which was given to the Sanitary Department during the war, was that of food decontamination. Local authorities were instructed by the Ministry of Food to formulate schemes for dealing with foodstuffs that were likely to be contaminated by poison gases, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. V. Cass, was made responsible for the supervision of a scheme for this purpose. An excellent response was received to an appeal made to food traders in the town to assist in the scheme and the necessary squads were formed to deal with any emergency.

Little was known at that time of the effects of poison gases on food and it was left to the individual officers of Health Authorities to devise methods of treatment that would render food safe and fit for human consumption. Many novel methods were devised as a result of much practice and experience. The treatment of meat, cheese, butter and similar foods consisted largely of trimming and paring.

Canned foods required soaking in bleach and hosing down, the tins being placed in wire baskets which were immersed into bins containing liquid bleach and afterwards hosed off and dried. This particular method enabled large quantities of canned food to be dealt with in the minimum space of time and was adopted by many of the Food Decontamination Centres in this area.

The Directors of the Oldham Athletic Football Club offered the use of their football ground as a food treatment site for a joint scheme which included seven adjacent local authorities. This site proved very suitable, no structural alterations being required.

In 1943, Oldham was selected by the Ministry of Food for the purpose of giving a practical demonstration of food decontamination. This took place on the 14th September, and was attended by the Emergency Committee, the chief officials of the Corporation and representatives of the Ministry of Food together with a large number of food decontamination officials.

The department was responsible for the salvaging of large quantities of food following air raid incidents. The damage consisted mainly of dust, dirt and broken glass. A striking feature of one of these incidents was that a dozen eggs which were found in a totally wrecked house, remained undamaged.

The Ministry of Food opened many storage depots in various parts of the town and large quantities of imported food were examined at the depôts instead of at the ports. The experience gained by the Sanitary Inspectors in these duties will be of the greatest value to them in their future work.

Assistance was also given to the Food Control Committee and the Food Enforcement Officer in their duties, particularly in relation to illicit slaughtering, where practically in every case traced, the meat was found to be diseased and unsound.

Sanitary Surveys of many public buildings to be used as Rest Centres, by the military, N.F.S., and many other services, were carried out both prior to the outbreak of hostilities and during the war period.

Sanitary Inspectors gave much assistance to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department in the survey and supervision of repairs of war-damaged properties.

Staff at the Disinfecting Station undertook the disinfecting of bedding and equipment for the military authorities, and further extensive disinfections were carried out in connection with the various fire-watching schemes in the town.

Rodent Control was also a subject which was given much interest by the Ministry of Food during the war and a survey of premises was carried out followed by a campaign in the destruction of rats.

The Casualty Bureau.

I am indebted to Mr. F. Standring, Tuberculosis and School Health Service Clerk, who, during the war period acted as Casualty Bureau Officer, for the following report:—

The Oldham Casualty Bureau was established in the department of the Medical Officer of Health on the 27th August, 1939, upon instructions received from the Ministry of Health, and had as its principal functions the collection, for the information of the Regional Hospital Officer, of daily hospital accommodation returns from each hospital in the borough together with the reception, summarising and disposal of forms of admission, discharge or death relating to civilian air-raid casualties and service and police casualties or sick treated in the hospitals.

On the 10th April, 1940, the Minister, after consultation with the Minister of Home Security, issued instructions which extended the responsibilities of the Bureau in connection with the recording and notification of air-raid casualties, and the following describes in some detail the arrangements made by the Bureau to meet the requirements of these and subsequent instructions issued by the Government.

Hospital Accommodation Returns.

The information called for in this connection varied from time to time with the fortunes of war, but its object at all times was to provide the Regional Hospital Officer, who was responsible for the allocation of beds for air-raid and service casualties and the reception and disposal of transferred hospital cases, casualties and sick, from hospitals situated in areas subjected to heavy enemy action, with a clear picture of the number of beds at his immediate disposal and the number which could be made available within 24 to 48 hours.

The return, the composition of which varied in accordance with the Government's anticipation of events, was, in the main, submitted to the Regional Hospital Officer daily, excluding Sundays, and related to the bedstate position as at midnight.

Recording and Notification of Air Raid Casualties.

The main purposes of the arrangements made by the Casualty Bureau in connection with the above were:—

1. To secure that relatives and friends of persons killed or injured in air-raids should be informed as soon as it was possible after a raid.
2. To answer individual enquiries locally and to make information available to the public.
3. To furnish the Ministry of Home Security as promptly as possible with particulars of the number and general classification of casualties inflicted.
4. To receive, record and transmit to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Pensions Casualties Records Section, particulars of persons killed or injured as a result of enemy action, such information to include details of the nature of the injury and treatment afforded, so as to facilitate the work of the Ministry in dealing with claims for compensation.

The above requirements necessitated the making of arrangements with the Casualty Services and other points of treatment for the submission to the Bureau of particulars of casualties treated,

The Work of the Casualty Bureau as a Result of Enemy Action.

The Bureau operated on a number of occasions as a result of enemy action, two of which, the 12th October 1941, and the 24th December, 1944, warrant particular mention in that both raids resulted in a number of casualties and thus tested the efficiency of the arrangements for their recording and notification.

On both occasions these proved to be quite satisfactory, the work of the Bureau being greatly facilitated by the manner in which the information required was provided by the personnel of the Casualty Services points of treatment concerned. This was particularly worthy of comment on the occasion of the 1944 raid in view of the fact that, in addition to the unexpectedness of the attack, there had been a certain curtailment of Civil Defence Casualty Services measures in operation for a considerable time.

The number of casualties recorded by the Bureau as a result of these two raids were as follows:

12th October, 1941.

Fatal casualties ...	...	27	(M 8, W15, Ch4)
Hospital cases ...	...	16	(M 9, W 7, Ch-)
Other cases ...	...	31	(M14, W12, Ch5)

24th December, 1944.

Fatal casualties ...	...	27	(M 9, W10, Ch8)
Hospital cases ...	...	37	(M 9, W20, Ch8)
Other cases ...	...	19	(M 9, W 7, Ch3)

The number of fatal casualties shown for the 1944 raid includes one male member of H.M. Forces.

Routine Work of the Bureau.

In addition to the collection and transmission of hospital accommodation returns referred to earlier in this record, a function which continued throughout the course of the war in Europe, the services of the Bureau were utilised by the Regional Hospital Officer for the purposes of forwarding to the hospitals included in the Local Authorities Emergency Medical Services many of the detailed instructions relating to the administration of those services, particularly in connection with the arrangements covering the treatment of members of H.M. and Allied Forces.

As a result of these latter arrangements the Bureau received from the hospitals concerned (principally Boundary Park General Hospital, The Royal Infirmary and the British Red Cross Convalescent Hospital at Greenacres) and disposed of 2,374 forms giving details of the treatment afforded and manner of disposal of approximately 1,200 Service cases.

The Mortuary Service.

The following report has been prepared by Mr. H. A. Lord, Lay Administrative Officer, who during the latter period of the war acted as Mortuary Superintendent.

Some months before the outbreak of the War, His Majesty's Government gave consideration to the emergency arrangements which would have to be made in the event of war. It was realised that one of the main problems would be that of dealing with the bodies of persons killed in consequence of war operations in this country, with the associated problems of providing mortuary accommodation, identifying and disposing of the bodies.

The duty was placed upon local authorities of providing emergency mortuaries, and also of arranging for transport from the scene of the incident, and the appointment of staff to deal with the bodies and ensure that the necessary formalities prior to burial were carried out. The deaths of persons killed as a result of war operation were exempted from the general rule requiring a report to the Coroner, and Coroners were relieved of any obligation to hold enquiries with regard to such deaths in cases where identity was established.

Premises adjacent to 31, Crossbank Street, were taken over in September, 1939, and additional premises in Irk Street in October of that year. In July, 1940, more suitable premises were found at Hope Street and the use of the Crossbank Street premises was discontinued.

Accommodation was provided on a basis of 400 per 100,000 of the population. Three-tier racks were made to carry stretchers, and accommodation was provided for washing the bodies, with separate provision for dealing with gas-contaminated bodies. The mortuary accommodation also included a waiting room for relatives, a separate viewing room, and at the Hope Street mortuary a combined office and shelter was erected in which the clerical work could be done and the relatives interviewed. The Irk Street premises provided accommodation for 126 bodies and the Hope Street premises for 312 bodies, a total of 438.

In the early days, a stock of 50 coffins was obtained and these were stored at the Irk Street Mortuary. Shrouds, sheets, linen bags and other necessary articles were obtained and a safe was kindly lent by Mr. Robert Whitworth in which to store valuables. These arrangements were in accordance with the suggestions issued by the Ministry of Health for the guidance of local authorities.

The cost of the adaptation of the premises was £1,059. 0.11d. and this expenditure was approved for reimbursement by the Ministry. The only item of expenditure not approved was the cost of the coffins.

The first occasion on which a mortuary was used was in connection with the Manchester Blitz on Christmas Eve, 1940, when five Oldham men in the National Fire Service lost their lives. The bodies were taken to the Irk Street Mortuary. The second occasion was when Oldham received an aerial bombardment and 27 bodies were brought to the Hope Street Mortuary—these comprised 8 men, 15 women and 4 children. On this occasion all bodies were identified and all were buried by the relatives.

In October, 1944, as the War in Europe appeared to be nearing its end, instructions were received for the Emergency Mortuaries to be given up. The fittings were dismantled and the buildings were stripped so that they could be handed back to the owners.

Unfortunately on the 24th December, 1944, a Flying Bomb dropped in Abbeyhills Road and 27 persons lost their lives. These included 9 men 10 women (1 unidentified) and 8 children. The Emergency Mortuaries had been dismantled and the paid staff had ceased duties but it was possible to improvise accommodation at Irk Street Mortuary and to bring in staff from the Health Yard and the Westhulme Hospital to deal with the bodies, which were washed at the Health Yard and then transferred to Irk Street. On this occasion, 4 bodies were buried by the Corporation in a grave at Hollinwood Cemetery, one of them being unidentified. An enquiry was later held by the Coroner with regard to the unidentified body, and the identity of this person assumed.

A Mortuary Superintendent, a Deputy Superintendent and an Assistant were appointed who rendered voluntary service in this capacity. In addition four full-time men were engaged and these, with the assistance of the Health Yard staff, and porters from the Westhulme Hospital as required, dealt with the washing of the bodies. The Superintendent and his assistants interviewed the relatives and saw to the completion of Form C.W.D.

Mr. Harold Waller was appointed Mortuary Superintendent at the outbreak of hostilities but had to give up these duties later owing to ill-health. Mr. Waller created the Mortuary Service which was regarded as one of the best in the Region and as Mortuary Superintendent he was a most efficient officer.

The Oldham Blood Transfusion Service.

I am indebted to Mr. H. Hobson, Chief Technician, Laboratory Service, Oldham Royal Infirmary and Boundary Park General Hospital, for the following report.

The Spanish Civil War had shown that the use of blood for the treatment of war casualties was responsible for saving many lives, and the discovery that stored refrigerated human blood could be utilised up to a period of two to three weeks suggested the possibility that blood would be invaluable in the treatment of civilian casualties in the event of a major European war.

Arising out of a discussion with Mr. Hobson and Mr. F. W. Barnett, Secretary of the Oldham Royal Infirmary, it was decided to recommend to the Air Raid Precautions Committee that steps be taken to establish a blood transfusion service. In August, 1939, Mr. H. Hobson gave a paper on blood transfusion to the Oldham Rotary Club soliciting the co-operation of the Rotarians with the object of forming a panel of private car owners who would voluntarily give assistance in this service by conveying donors from the Infirmary after they had given blood. At this stage, the Air Raid Precautions Committee authorised expenditure for the purchase of a refrigerator and all necessary apparatus for the establishment of an up to date blood bank and press advertisements were issued appealing for volunteers to enroll as blood donors.

The Air Raid Precautions Committee agreed to the appointment of Mr. Hobson as Blood Transfusion Officer.

As war appeared imminent, 18 donors were called upon to give their blood before 1st September. This was stored ready for use in case of casualties from air raids.

The use of plasma for shock treatment at this period was unknown and blood could not be used after three weeks from collection. However, the establishment of the blood bank stimulated interest in the use of blood for civilian cases in our hospitals, and very little was wasted.

During 1939, our donor panel was still pathetically small and as we had experienced no air raids, only an average of three donors were bled each week. The Oldham Royal Infirmary afforded facilities for this and also the services of a nurse. The members of the Rotary Club continued to convey the donors home after donating their blood. From September 1st, 1939, to December 31st of this year, 46 donors were bled and although this figure was small it represented a large increase on pre-war figures.

Early in 1940, the Americans discovered that plasma separated from whole blood could be used for shock. This discovery was a great advance and meant that blood from donors of all groups could be utilised, instead of only universal donors. An additional advantage was that the plasma could be stored almost indefinitely without deterioration and the normal grouping of the patient was not required before the plasma transfusion. Without delay, the Air Raid Precautions Committee purchased special bottles for the processing of the plasma, and the Oldham Blood Transfusion Service became one of the first organisations in the country to possess a plasma bank. Furthermore, by being able to take volunteers of all blood groups, our donor panel was expanding rapidly.

The whole of 1940 was spent in building up the service by publicity, increasing the plasma bank and using the small quantities of blood collected each week for civilian patients. During this year, 217 bottles of blood were taken—a very small quantity when compared with present day collections, but with the methods and resources at our disposal this result was far superior to many larger towns, some of which had not established a blood transfusion service.

In May, 1941, the Government set up Regional Blood Transfusion Services throughout the country, our service being included in the North West Regional Scheme, which was under the direction of Dr. J. F. Wilkinson, of the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Dr. Wilkinson met the Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Hobson and it was agreed that the Regional Service would provide assistance and the necessary apparatus to enable our service to assist still further in the national effort to secure more blood and plasma. Dr. Wilkinson at this meeting, expressed his great satisfaction with the work that had been done, and with the service that had been built up.

Messrs. Ferranti Ltd., of Failsworth, afforded facilities at their Moston Works twice weekly for the collection of blood from members of their staff who had volunteered as donors and over 800 donors gave their blood within 6 months. The service had now expanded considerably

and it was apparent that some voluntary aid would be necessary to assist in the taking of blood. Mr. W. Gartside and Mr. R. H. B. Whitehead, local chemists, generously offered to give every assistance which was gratefully accepted. From 1941, these two gentlemen gave their services freely and used their cars whenever called upon for this service.

With the provision of standard transfusion equipment from the Regional Service, it was possible to hold larger sessions and during the latter half of 1941 there was a marked increase in our blood collections over 1940, and a considerable increase in our civilian transfusions. At the same time we were also supplying the Regional Service with exceptionally large quantities of plasma for use in civilian and military hospitals.

By 1942, it was evident that we could expand our service still further, but this meant that some voluntary help would be needed. This was soon forthcoming from the members of the First Aid Posts and the British Red Cross Personnel and I feel that the highest tribute should be paid to these ladies who assisted at the sessions, on some occasions three times weekly, for a period of over three years. This work was undertaken in a voluntary capacity.

August 1942, saw our first campaign to increase our donor panel. This was inaugurated by His Worship the Mayor, (Alderman H. E. Chamberlain, J.P.) and every effort was made to ensure its success. Lectures, films, mobile recruiting vans, house-to-house pamphlets etc., all combined to raise a total of 2,500 new donors. Many thanks were also due to numerous large firms in the area who allowed facilities for talks to be given to employees during the lunch times and break periods. Many donors were obtained in this way and sessions for bleeding were also arranged at the factories.

The success of this campaign was chiefly due to the organising ability of Miss Royle of the Public Health Department.

The remainder of this year was devoted to the collection of blood. The Oldham Royal Infirmary (Massage Department) and the Boundary Park General Hospital (Resuscitation Ward) being used for this purpose. Sessions were also arranged at the First Aid Posts.

In 1943, a number of medical practitioners in the town offered their services in a voluntary capacity at the blood donating sessions. Many of these sessions were held on Sunday afternoons and I feel that great credit is due to these doctors who gave up a large portion of their valuable spare time.

This year was not spectacular, the number of donors bled equalled those for 1942, and it is pleasing to be able to state that Oldham was recognised as the most reliable unit in the North West Regional Transfusion Service.

There was no slackening in the service during 1944, but the panel had fallen considerably. This was due to a variety of reasons, calling up to the Forces, people leaving the town, overwork and overtime and civil defence responsibilities. It was therefore decided to repeat the campaign which had proved so successful in 1942.

The second campaign was launched by His Worship the Mayor, (Alderman R. Roberts, J.P.) in July, 1944, when 2,000 new donors were enrolled. This result after 5 years of war was considered magnificent. By the end of December, more than 3,600 blood donations had been obtained, which easily passed any of our previous records.

The flying-bomb incident on December 24th, 1944, gave the service the opportunity of functioning in a direct manner and 4 victims were given blood or plasma transfusions as part of their resuscitation in hospital, all with excellent results. There was no diminution in our efforts in 1945 and up to V.E. Day in May of this year, the interest in the service had been fully maintained.

Many Civil Defence Services gave yeoman service in this war, but few retained the same interest as the Oldham Blood Transfusion Service which continued for almost 6 years without a break, and at the end of this, possessed the proud record of having the finest Blood Transfusion Service in the North West Region. The figures of the achievements of this service from its inauguration to the subsequent transfer to the Regional Service are given below:—

Donations of Blood Taken	14,596
Total of Plasma sent to Regional Officer ...	12,100
Bottles of Blood given to Patients	2,465
Bottles of Plasma given to Patients	1,263
Number of Patients Transfused	1,819

In conclusion, our very best thanks are due to many people and organisations who find no mention in the above report, namely, the Civil Defence Personell, Industrial Executives, and last but not least, all those who gave their blood, without whom there would have been no Blood Transfusion Service at all.

With the cessation of hostilities in 1945, it was agreed that the Health Committee should take over control of this service from the Emergency Committee, with effect from the 19th August of this year. This arrangement continued until 1946, with full reimbursement by the Ministry of Health of all expenditure. In October, 1946, the service was taken over by the Regional Service and Dr. F. Stratton, then Regional Transfusion Officer, visited Oldham to meet members of the Health Committee and local officers, together with representatives of the organisations who had participated in this service, when expressions of appreciation and gratitude for services rendered by the Blood Transfusion Officer and all who had assisted in this service during the war-time period were made and placed on record.

War Damage in Oldham.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has kindly furnished the following information:—

1940. The first damage sustained in Oldham resulted from the explosion of a land mine on vacant land near Boundary Park Road; an unexploded land mine made it necessary for some 75 houses and Westhulme Hospital to be evacuated for two days.

From a report issued on the 30th December, 1940, by Mr. Wallshaw, the Housing Manager, who was in charge of the repair work, the reported numbers of premises damaged were as follows:—

230 houses, 12 shops, 3 mills.

Mental Block at Westwood Park Institution.

Westhulme Hospital.

Stand—Oldham Athletic Football Ground.

1941. In March, a bomb fell on the edge of the canal basin at Hollinwood, and the damage was generally of a minor character. In the same year there was a certain amount of minor damage to roofs, etc. due to anti-aircraft shrapnel.

On the night of October 12/13th, considerable damage was done by several “sticks” of bombs in widespread parts of the town. Gas mains, sewers, etc., were affected but repairs were quickly carried out. The dwelling houses affected were as follows:—

Destroyed	28
Seriously damaged and subsequently demolished	31
Severely damaged and temporarily evacuated...	81
Severely damaged not evacuated	208
Minor damage	2,513

1944. The only other damage sustained was occasioned by a “Flying Bomb” which fell in Abbeyhills Road on the 24th December. The damage was severe and widespread, the number of houses damaged being as follows:—

Destroyed	18
Severely damaged and subsequently demolished	18
Severely damaged and temporarily evacuated...	24
Severely damaged not evacuated	72
Minor damage	943

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